

Energy Democracy Initiative

We have Power





Energy Democracy as a concept

Energy Democracy is a political, economic, social and cultural concept that merges the technological energy transition with the strengthening of democracy and public participation (participatory democracy)

It is about building peoples' power



Community owned Renewable Energy

Community owned renewable energy programs can help address a plurality of challenges , viz, poverty, inequality, unemployment, climate change and governance:

- *Builds community participation, empowerment and resilience*
- *Strengthens local economies*
- *Includes communities in decision-making about the transition to low carbon future*
- *Develops renewable energy industries, technologies and jobs*



EDI's Vision

A future in which people's power is achieved through the democratization and ownership of clean, safe and affordable decentralised renewable energy systems in South Africa and the Region.



EDI's Mission

To support the empowerment and capacity of poor & working class communities through knowledge and skills training that lays the basis for taking ownership and control of their energy future.



EDI's Approach

- Organising unit – ward level
- Poor and working class communities (equity)
- Community selects participants
- Invest in time to ensure deep internalisation of the values underpinning the program
- All decisions made by the participants in engagement with wider community
- Will only engage with the state & utility once they are capacitated - to ensure equal partners at the table
- CAN DO attitude



Outcomes

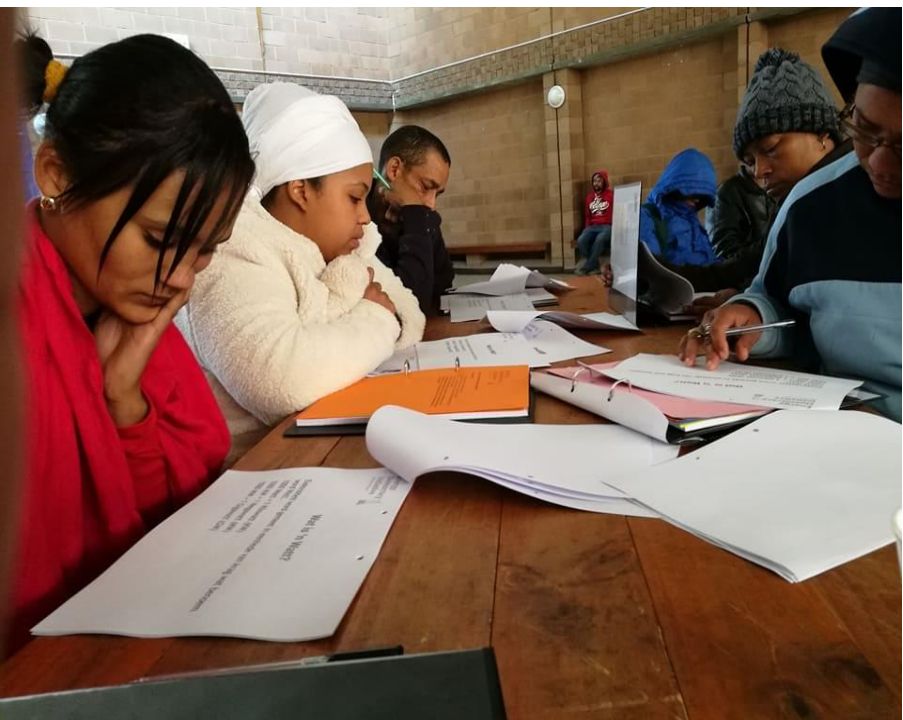
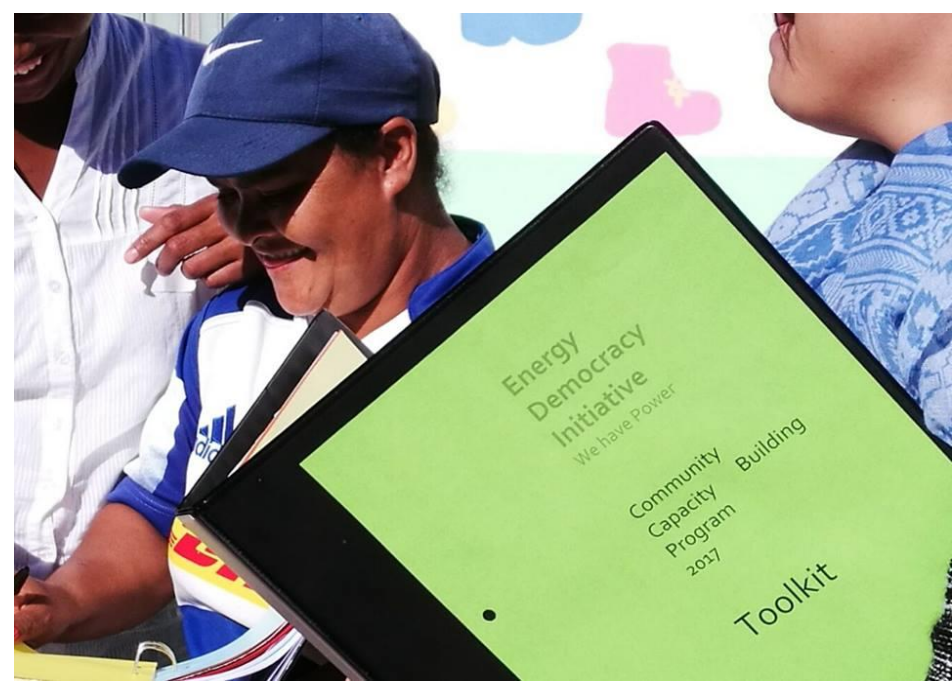
- Skilled group of Energy Democracy Champions
- Community Learning Platform
- Participatory learning and decision-making in communities
- Active citizenship
- Decentralised community/socially owned and controlled Renewable Energy System
- Sustainable revenue generation, job creation and local economic opportunities



2017 Pilot

Pilot the program in 4 areas in the W.Cape:

1. Riversdale
2. Doringbaai
3. Langa
4. Belhar





Program Phases

Phase One – 2017

- Capacity Building - Understanding the Basic Concepts
- 1 workshop per community
- 1 joint workshop – 9 Sept
- Launch of Community Learning Platform

Phase Two – 2018

- Capacity building on how to Plan an Energy system
- Real planning of Community Renewable Energy system
- Series of workshops and community programs
- Study Visit (funding dependent)

Phase Three – 2019

- Move from Planning to Delivery
- Capacity Building on Financing of Energy system, raising funds, project management, governance
- Develop Funding proposal
- Raise Funds
- Implementation



Challenges

- Policy and Regulatory barriers
- Financing (role of DFI's, state, private FI's, International funding)
- Commitment and unity in communities
- Community expectations

Contact details

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