

radio
workshop

MINI GUIDE #4

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON MY COMMUNITY



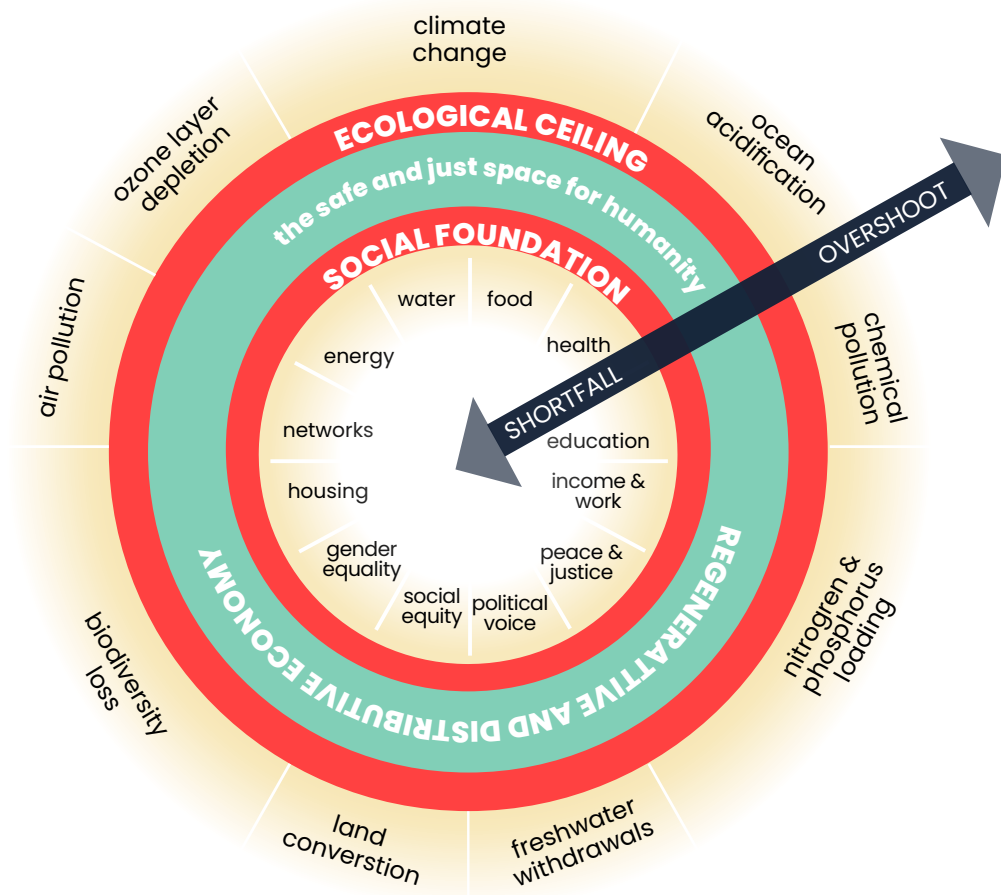
"Nuclear plant cooling tower blowing smoke", Unspalsh, Frédéric Paulussen, 2018

INTRODUCTION

With people in Emalahleni understandably focused on what the end of coal means for them and their families, climate change may feel like a distant reality. But even if it is not easy to see, climate change is already here and affecting everyone's life. Climate change is one of the reasons you are now paying more for your food than you were a year or two ago. Every day, the global economy continues to churn out fossil fuel emissions, making you and your family more vulnerable to many risks, including water, food, loss of income and livelihood insecurity ([The guardian](#)).

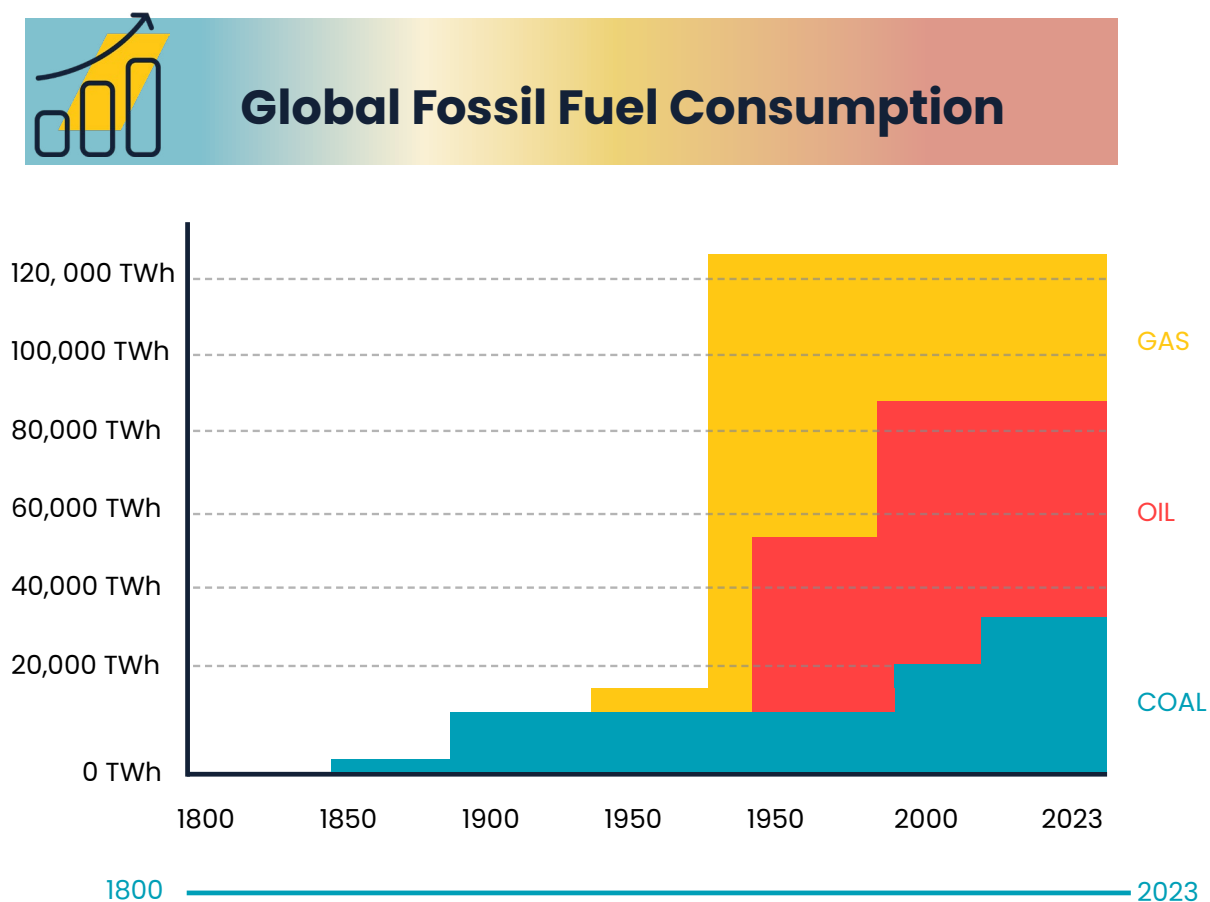


Doughnut Economic Model



'The Doughnut' is a way of representing how the economy needs to change in order to make a 'safe and just' way of living possible for humanity – one that transitions away from fossil fuels and introduces a Green Economy. The outer ring of the Doughnut includes the major areas where damage to the environment must be reduced, including climate change, in order to curb all the harmful impacts that we discuss in this section. The inner ring represents the key basic needs people have, such as food, housing, water, energy, health, livelihoods, peace and justice. All of these basic human needs can either be met in ways that destroy the environment, or in ways that reduce harm to the environment. For example in our guide to green jobs, we have explored how green livelihoods are part of the Just Transition that we need to reduce the harm brought about by climate change.

Fossil fuel pollution is by far the largest contributor to climate change, responsible for more than 75% of all greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions have increased steadily over time, to the point where they are now upsetting the delicate balance that sustains life on Earth



Human-caused climate change and wider environmental harms, visualised in the Doughnut, shows us that what is bad for the planet is bad for us too. When the environment becomes unhealthy, so do we. Climate change affects the Earth's ability to provide for our needs—food, water, shelter, clothing, energy, clean air and more. Because of this, climate change also adds to the suffering people already experience from 'local' environmental problems such as asthma caused by air pollution or lack of clean and safe drinking water. Climate Change affects our environment, and so it affects us too. Those already suffering from health, livelihood or economic stresses will feel the burden even more.

A study from the University of Cape Town found that climate change makes it harder for South Africa to address its greatest challenges of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, failing infrastructure, and widening inequality ([CSAG](#)).

Harder to grow food

In Mpumalanga, and as in many other parts of the world, climate change will make it harder to grow food and access water.

Higher risks of draughts and floods

With every degree of global warming, the risks and potential damages from drought and flooding will multiply. With 1.5 C degrees of heating, for example, droughts affecting agriculture will become twice as likely; and with 2 C degrees of heating, they become 150% to 200% more likely, according to the [IPCC](#).

Increases existing burdens and risks

In Mpumalanga, climate change will add to existing health burdens from coal pollution such as high rates of asthma and respiratory illness, making people whose health is already vulnerable even more vulnerable to new health risks such as heat stress and [waterborne disease](#).

Increases the cost of living

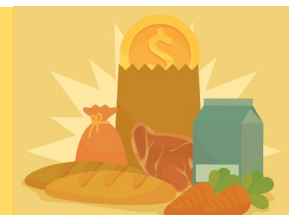
There is no area of life that climate change will not touch. It will affect the safety of your housing, the cost of living, and the state of your finances. It will affect security and service delivery in your community. It will put new shocks and stresses on the economy. A recent study for example found that climate change may cause food prices to increase by as much as 3.2 percent per year by 2035. This would contribute to higher general inflation around the world, forcing households to spend a greater portion of their income on food while also making it harder for them to access a diverse and healthy diet. This is partly because many

of the plant and animal species agriculture depends on will be badly impacted by climate change too.

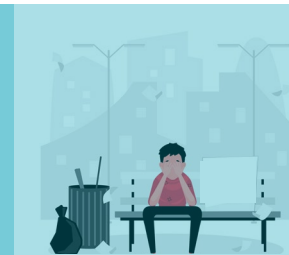
Safety of housing – greater vulnerability to storm damage and flooding



Cost of living – rises as it becomes harder and more expensive to produce and transport food and other products



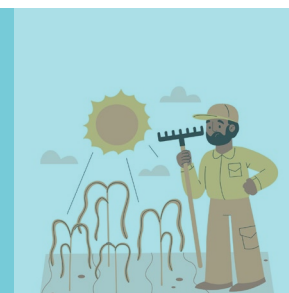
Security – insecurity rises as people lose jobs or have to move from their communities due to economic or environmental stresses



Service delivery – affected by storm damage to infrastructure



Employment – hotter temperatures and harsh outdoor working conditions associated with a 3 degree temperature rise may worsen unemployment and reduce labour productivity by 30-50%



In a 'business as usual' scenario, almost every aspect of life will get harder because of climate change and ecological breakdown, which is why we must transition from fossil fuels, including coal, to a Green Economy as quickly as possible. Every day as the damages multiply, the window of opportunity to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, and realise that 'safe and just' space for humanity within the inner and outer ring of the Doughnut, is narrowing. Every country in the world has to act swiftly – though there is a lot of debate globally as well as locally about who bears responsibility and how the costs of a Just Transition should be distributed.

In short, painful as it may be to transition from coal in Emalahleni, it would be even more painful to remain tied to coal, with all of its harmful impacts on health and the environment, as the rest of the world moves on.

The dirty legacy of coal in Mpumalanga already weakens peoples' resilience to new shocks and stresses introduced by climate change. Hundreds of open pit mines have been left, exposing communities to toxic slurry and ash dust causing asthma, tuberculosis, and other respiratory illnesses that undermine peoples' health, finances and wellbeing, leaving them with fewer resources to rise to new difficulties posed by climate change. Mining has depleted and polluted precious water resources which will only become more scarce with climate change. Ex-miners suffer from silicosis and lung disease. Communities have already suffered the consequences of toxic air, polluted water, and degraded land from the mines, and on top of this people now face an onslaught of new shocks and disasters from climate change, especially if strong and immediate climate action is not taken.



Bust the Myth Get the Facts

MYTH

Climate change and a Just Transition are a hoax led by environmentalists, or a scam by the government so they can spread their corruption to new industries such as renewables.

FACT

People are not losing their jobs because of environmentalism or corruption, but because there is no future in coal. Even if we continue to mine coal from the ground, the demand for it is falling as industries and municipalities in South Africa and around the world move to cleaner renewable energy sources. In a coal economy, people have had to sacrifice their health to enjoy stable livelihoods. But with climate change, everyone will get poorer. In fact, the only way to avoid the worst damages to the environment and the economy, and to build a future for the next generation, is to transition to an economy that is not dependent on fossil fuels. If managed well, the transition from coal will lead to a greener economy where people find new kinds of jobs in cleaner, healthier and less polluting sectors. Hopefully the transition to a Green Economy will offer some ways to make life better and fairer for people, while also slowing down the harmful, life-destroying effects of climate change.

DID YOU KNOW?

Local fact: A study from the University of Cape Town describes the cascading effects that climate change will have on peoples' lives. For example, Cape Town's severe drought of 2015-17 was made between 3 and 6 times more likely because of climate change, while such events are even likelier in the future, meaning there will be less water available for people, animals and crops. If warming reaches 3 C degrees, meanwhile, it will make working outdoors more dangerous and difficult, reducing labour capacity by 30-50%.

Global fact: A study from Germany predicts that peoples' incomes around the world will fall by an average of 20% by 2050 due to the effects of climate change on areas like agricultural yields, labour productivity and infrastructure. The same study predicts that the costs to the economy from rising temperatures and more extreme weather will be six times higher than the costs of taking action to limit global warming to 2C degrees celsius. The worst impacts are expected to fall on developing countries, for example with Botswana taking a 25% hit in incomes, and Iraq 30%.

CASE STUDY:

Children in South Africa and around the world are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, for many reasons. As small people, children are still growing and developing. Their bodies and brains are more vulnerable to toxins and pollution, heatwaves, food and water scarcity and other climate-related stresses. Children are more susceptible to climate-related diseases and health risks, ranging from asthma to diarrhea, to food insecurity and malnutrition. Already 27 percent of South African children under the age of 5 are stunted due to poor nutrition and diet, affecting their lifelong potential and development, including cognitive development. With climate change posing threats of worsened nutrition and food insecurity, the effects of childhood stunting in the education system, the labour market, the economy and society are likely to be profound. In the education system, as children and particularly girl children grow more likely to miss or drop out of school due to climate issues touching their health, food and economic status, their learning suffers and their lifelong potential is further curbed. Missing school, on top of other social and economic hardships, also potentially exposes children (and again girls in particular) to abuse, exploitation and violence. At the same time, schools themselves are more exposed to damage and destruction from storms, flooding and fires, further disrupting children's learning and development. Young children have been born into a climate disrupted world, and are likely to experience these effects and more over their lifetimes, especially as the longer the world delays taking action, the worse climate change will get. How could children's rights to distributive, procedural and restorative justice be addressed, given that they are inheriting the burdens of climate change which they did not contribute to?

RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

ANGLES: DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN MY COMMUNITY

- What will be the impact of Climate Change on our community?
- Does our community understand Climate Change and its impacts?
- What could the community do to be better prepared for Climate Change?



IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN MY COMMUNITY

CHOOSE AN ANGLE

What will be the impact
of Climate Change on our
community?

FORMATS FOR TELLING THE STORY



AUDIO COMMENTARY



AIM:

This is a way to get people's opinions about a topic they care deeply about. You don't just talk to ordinary members of the community – you choose a person who has first-hand experience of the issue you're exploring.



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

Anyone in the community (or province) who understands some effects of Climate Change and is involved in some type of mitigation plan.



QUESTIONS

- Can you tell us how Climate Change will affect our community?
- How can communities build resilience?



AUDIO PROFILE



AIM:

To get a first person account of someone's experience, passion and journey. Audio profiles often aim to inspire.



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

Someone who has thought deeply about the effects of Climate Change on his community (or South Africa)



QUESTION

- When did you first realise what Climate Change is and how it is going to affect us? (A personal journey narrative, ask follow-up questions)



INTERVIEW



AIM:

To source information from someone who has expertise or experience in the topic.



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

- A green economy expert
- A green entrepreneur
- A disaster management person (who understands climate change)



EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW:

- Do you think people understand how climate change is going to affect us?
- How is climate change going to affect communities in South Africa in the next 30 years?
- How can we build more resilient communities?
- Should the education system be transformed to prepare young people better?
- (Follow-up question) What else needs to be done to ensure we are better prepared?
- (Follow-up question) What is the role of Government? What can the community do?



VOX POP



AIM:

To get many opinions on one topic.



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

A large number of youth



QUESTION

In what way do you think climate change is going to affect this community?

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

SAMPLE SCRIPT

[INTRO:]

Host 1: It's just gone [TIME], and you're just in time for the [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION]. My name is [NAME].

Host 2: And my name is [NAME]. On today's show, we will be talking about the impact of Climate Change on our community?

Host 1: Yes! eMalahleni is facing a lot of change in the coming years, and we need to understand and prepare for it.

Host 2: But what will the impact of climate change be on our community?

[PLAY VOX POP]

Host 1: There are lots of challenges out there, and Climate Change is often not even part of our worries, but should it be?

Host 2: "With people in Emalahleni understandably focused on what the end of coal means for them and their families, climate change may feel like a distant reality. Even if it is not easy to see, however, climate change is already here, and it is affecting everyone's life. Climate change is one of the reasons you are now paying

more for your food than you were a year or two ago. Every day the global economy continues to churn out fossil fuel emissions, it is making you and your family more vulnerable to many risks, including illness and food and livelihood insecurity." (fact sheet)

Host 1: "There is no area of life that climate change will not touch. It will affect the safety of your housing, the cost of living and the state of your finances. It will affect security and service delivery in your community. It will put new shocks and stresses on the economy. (fact sheet)

Host 2: Let's hear from people out there. In what way do you think climate change is going to affect this community?

[PLAY VOX POP]

Host 1: [gives a comment on the VOX messages played and provide transition...]

Host 2: We also spoke to [name of the person who did audio-profile], working in [give background] for [number of years], about when [he/she] realised what Climate Change is and how it is going to affect us?

[PLAY AUDIO-PROFILE]

Host 2: [Comments on the audio

Use your produced radio features, your research and the suggested script and questions to write your own script.

profile to provide closure and transition]

can comment and participate in the show]

Host 1: Considering all the challenges faced by the community of eMalahleni in the transition away from coal. We asked [name person that did audio-commentary + short intro to who he/she is] to tell us how Climate Change will affect our community? How can communities build resilience?

[OPEN LINES FOR LISTENER'S FEEDBACK]

Show clock

[PLAY AUDIO -COMMENTARY]

Host 2: [Comments on the audio profile to provide closure and transition]

Host 1: "Climate Change will put new shocks and stresses on the economy. A recent study for example found that climate change may cause food prices to increase by as much as 3.2 percent per year by 2035. (fact sheet)"

Host 2: We asked more of what to expect from [name person that did interview + introduction to who they are].

[PLAY INTERVIEW] (if live, you can do it in-studio)

Host 1: [Comments on the interview to provide closure and transition]

Host 2: Let's hear now from our listeners... [share ways in which they