

THE RADIO WORKSHOP PRESENTS

THE JUST ENERGY TRANSITION **RADIO AND PODCAST** **PRODUCTION** **TOOLKIT**

This toolkit was developed by the Radio Workshop in partnership with the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, the African Climate Foundation, and the New Economy Hub.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Radio Workshop trains youth across Africa as radio reporters and podcasters, giving them the tools and skills to research, interview, and broadcast on local radio stations. They bring out youth perspectives and lead important conversations on issues that matter most to young people. Our vision is for resilient young people to shape their futures by accessing a range of opportunities, engaging meaningfully with social issues, advocating for their peers and communities, and holding leaders and decision-makers to account.

Since 2022, in partnership with the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, the African Climate Foundation, and the New Economy Hub, we have developed youth-led radio shows and podcasts that raise awareness and spark dialogue about climate change and the Just Energy Transition (JET) in South Africa. In the first year, we created the podcast episode [This Coal Life](#), which explores what will happen to families in Kriel, Mpumalanga, who have built their lives on coal as South Africa moves towards renewable energy. The episode won Best Stand Alone Documentary at the 2023 [IDA Awards](#), Best Radio and Podcast of 2024 at the [One World Media awards](#), and was [broadcast on NPR](#), reaching millions of listeners. The episode was produced in close collaboration with trained youth reporters at Emalaheni FM, in Mpumalanga. We are producing part two of the episode This Coal Life, which we expect to publish in early 2025.

Since 2023, we have focused on building up our curriculum materials and the skills of our youth reporters at Coal FM to produce radio shows that accurately share information and help listeners understand the stakes of the current energy transition. They have also learned how to integrate podcasts into their shows and outreach activities, using them to spark dialogue within their community.

This toolkit represents a set of resources designed to help build interest and momentum around climate change and the Just Energy Transition through audio, as well as a roadmap to help guide other Youth Reporter sites and advocacy organisations to replicate the project within their communities.

CONTEXT

Youth, in particular, need to be more actively involved in conversations about the South African energy transition as their future is the most at stake. [A recent study](#) shows that over 37% of youth in Mpumalanga are not in education, employment or training, even though the vast majority express an interest in work. Policies and interventions around the energy transition must be aligned with the needs and wants of these vulnerable youth, or existing socio-economic inequalities will only be exacerbated. At the same time, [young people are aware of the climate change crisis](#) and are often leading advocates for renewable energy solutions, as made evident by the recent [#CancelCoal court case](#).

Community radio in South Africa represents a highly effective platform for raising awareness, engaging communities, and building momentum around issues that affect these communities. Radio is affordable, easy to access and reaches listeners in their preferred language. For 18 years, we have relied on youth-led radio and outreaches to raise awareness and spark community dialogues on key social issues.

[Research shows](#) that podcasts that use intimate formats, such as narrative podcasting, increase the sense of connectedness of the listener with the characters and topic. This sense of connection and empathy leads to increased engagement from the listener. In this context, African-grown narrative nonfiction, especially when harnessed to advance dialogue and advocacy around social issues, can be a powerful tool for helping shift social narratives.

Thus, since 2021, we've added a podcasting component to our existing model of youth-led radio. We have been experimenting with how to effectively leverage the strengths of both platforms to build community and youth-led campaigns that inform and inspire meaningful conversations and lead to foster behavior change.

Our mission is to help inspire young people to become climate advocates, and to create content that invigorates the minds of people in their community to think deeply about how their daily struggles are connected to climate change and how climate action and the Just Energy Transition might transform their lives for the better. Many climate advocates around the world, and especially across the Global South, are trying to figure out how to motivate people to take action within their communities to push for change.

This toolkit is Radio Workshop's contribution—we hope it will inspire young people to lead the way—to get conversations started within their communities, to hold leaders and those in power accountable, and to advocate for community-led solutions.

All Radio Workshop guides, including many more about climate change, are freely accessible on our website [resource page](#).

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE MANUAL

Welcome to the Just Energy Transition Toolkit. We trust this toolkit will support you in creating impactful radio shows or podcasts around the topic of Just Energy Transition in South Africa. We have compiled this toolkit based on the experience and learning of our youth radio project in Emalaheni. Young people, trained as youth reporters, use these radio guides to help them unpack the topic, choose a focus, research and build radio shows.

This guide is intended to be a tool for others looking to create projects around climate change and Just Energy Transition—for sharing stories and experiences that build awareness and inspire solutions around climate change and the Just Energy Transition. Perhaps you are already a youth reporter at a local radio station, a high school student, a member of a community-based organisation, a teacher, or you belong to an NGO – someone who believes in their community and wants to make a change. Well, this guide can help you take your audio production work to the next level.

Over the past 18 years, we have learned a few things:

- Information can change lives
- Hearing new perspectives can shift mindsets
- All opinions matter
- Sharing stories can open minds
- No act is too small to make an impact
- Youth have a strong voice

So, what's the best way to get people to hear your message and become involved in your vision? Give them an experience, make an impression, speak to their heart and support the information with a powerful message. It may sound simple – and it is – especially when you're informed and have a good plan.

We hope this guide will become your tool to inspire and challenge people in transitioning towards a more just and climate-friendly society. This is something we can only do through dialogues; the first step in developing the visions and planting the seeds for the emerging future.

The Radio Workshop team

CHAPTER TWO

UNDERSTANDING RADIO

Radio Workshop has been working with radio stations since 2010. We believe it's a powerful platform to amplify local voices, to get discussions going that include the entire community, and to initiate important conversations.

Here's a guide to help you find your way using radio.

FACTS:

- Radio is still the most popular platform for people on the African continent to get their news and information
- Radio is easy to learn
- Radio reaches everywhere: in your room, in the car, in taxis, shops and more
- Radio is all about the power of voices and stories
- Radio allows people who don't often participate in discussions and decision making to do so, including youth, unemployed people and the elderly
- Radio creates pictures in your mind
- Radio is powerful and emotional, and creates a connection with the audience

South Africa has a range of commercial radio stations, public-service broadcast stations and community stations. Most of the time, they operate very differently because they have different missions. Here are some of the most common differences between commercial and community stations.

COMMERCIAL RADIO	COMMUNITY RADIO
Ratings (how many listeners) are very important because most money comes from advertising.	Relies on relationships with funders and the community to keep operating
Not very flexible with programming	Much more flexible with programming
Does not have to represent a particular group or community	Through the legal obligations of its licensing, it must represent a particular group or community where it broadcasts
Obligated to its shareholders	Obligated to its board and community
Does not have to provide educational programmes	Must provide educational programmes
Main focus is entertainment and current affairs	Must aim to build civil society

When looking at this table, community radio seems a lot friendlier to approach for the purposes of telling stories. However, there are some commercial stations out there that value community voices, too. So try them both!

FORGING A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION

If you do not already have a relationship with a radio station, the following points can help you approach one to start a relationship and get your stories about gun violence, how it affects young people in your community and, what you can do to help build community safety and reduce gun violence.

Be clear about your vision and what you want to achieve using the stories of young people and the community to talk about reducing gun violence and building safer spaces. Good intention statements would be:

- I want to share information
- I want to create dialogue about something we do not talk about
- I want to get public opinion to understand others
- I want to understand how youth feel and act
- I want people to know about services
- Make an appointment to personally visit the station manager and/or programmes manager with something clear to offer. These custodians of the station will ask the following questions. You will need to have an answer for most of them:
 - Is this relevant to my community?
 - How will it benefit my community?
 - Who in my community is affected?
 - Can I gain more listeners through this?
 - Will this cost the radio station?
 - How will this improve the image of the radio station?
 - Do you have a plan for more than five programmes?
 - Do you want your own slot? Do you want to be part of someone else's slot?
 - What are the risks of creating this sort of programming?
 - Do you have community networks or other partners working with you?
- Radio stations are interested in contributions that interest listeners and that will grow listenership, especially those that encourage young people to listen and participate. They also want to ensure that what you offer is consistent and regular. If you are suggesting to have a series on gun violence and community safety, you must ensure that:
 - You have young people involved
 - You share real stories
 - You have experts on the topic
 - You represent multiple perspectives, even the unpopular ones
 - You have a plan for a series of slots/shows

Radio is intimate and engaging. You can interact with callers, read text messages, listen to voice notes and respond to social media feedback in real-time. You can play stories that have been prepared and recorded in advance. You can have live debates and quizzes. With so many options, remember that radio works best when you have a clear plan that accounts for every minute you are on air. This is where your Radio Production Guide will be your best map.

To understand how you can create pre-recorded content and stories, or how to run a youth radio project, we have manuals on our Radio Workshops' website that you can download for free. Go to the Resources tab on our home page and scroll down to the "Making Radio" tab. You'll find quite a few there.

If you are a young person who wants to produce your own radio content, check out:

"How to Make Your Own Radio Shows: Youth Radio Toolkit"

<https://radioworkshop.org/how-to-make-your-own-radio-shows/>

If you are a radio station member or an adult, who wants to train others in making radio and running a youth radio project, please see our manual called *"How to Start a Youth Radio Project in Your Community: Facilitators Handbook"*

<https://radioworkshop.org/how-to-start-a-youth-radio-project-in-your-community/>

Radio is not just "the wireless" anymore. Internet connectivity and mobile phones have made radio even more powerful than it was before. Radio can reach more people in more places and allow them to be part of the conversation in new ways thanks to technology. Call-ins, messaging, social media participation – it's all possible, making radio interactive and dynamic.



CHAPTER THREE

UNDERSTANDING PODCASTING

A podcast is an episodic audio series that a user can listen to online via a podcast platform or download to a personal device to listen to at a time of their choosing. Some podcasts are “reruns” of radio shows, but most are original content.

PODCAST PLATFORMS

The most popular platforms are Spotify and Apple Podcasts, but more and more podcasts are broadcast on YouTube.

TYPES OF PODCASTS

Podcasts come in many different formats. For example:

- **Chatcast** – 2 or more people getting together and talking with little to no structure
- **Interview**
- **Narrative fiction**
- **Narrative nonfiction** – A real-life story about real people and events told in a compelling way. Story-driven, but must remain as accurate to the truth as possible. This is the kind of podcast we make at Radio Workshop!

WHO IS LISTENING?

In 2024, so far, over 500 million people across the world have been listening to podcasts, and the number has been increasing exponentially over the past 10 years. In the US alone, there are an estimated 130 million podcast listeners, followed by China and Brazil.

WHAT ABOUT AFRICA?

Research shows that podcasting in Africa is steadily growing as more people gain access to technological equipment and the internet. Even though podcasters in Africa face more challenges than those in Western countries, they are still finding ways to create shows. For example, most producers on the continent use their personal savings to create content and tend to record using devices such as smartphones at home, instead of using microphones and studios. This has enabled podcasters in Africa to launch podcasts successfully, but on the flip side, they tend to struggle to sustain them and cannot yet rely on them to create a livelihood.

Another challenge on the continent is that audiences are more likely to listen to radio over podcasts. Radio has been the most popular medium of media in Africa for decades because it is free and widely accessible. Podcasts, on the other hand, require the effort of finding the show of your interest and then listening to it via a device that uses data or the internet, which is costly for many people.

Despite all the hurdles, African podcasters are producing shows across languages and regions. That is because podcasts have the potential to amplify local issues and perspectives, as well as give voice to communities otherwise forgotten in greater global conversations. **Podcasts offer a way for Africans to communicate and share information about the continent on their own terms.** In South Africa, around 3.2 million people listened to podcasts in 2024, but 68% of adults listen to podcasts at least 1h in a week, the highest rate in the world!

PODCASTING VS RADIO

Podcasting and radio are both audio formats, but there are some key differences between them, which you want to be aware of before you choose one format over the other depending on your resources, intended audience and goals.

	PODCASTS	RADIO
Audience	Global	Local
	Intimacy with the listener. Can cater to niche interests. Caters to community or movement-building	Must maintain a broad public appeal
Broadcast	On the internet – it can be used for online campaigning	On FM or AM radio waves
	On-demand (users can choose what they listen to and when they listen to it)	Scheduled
	It can be replayed	Airs once

Cost	Requires internet or data to listen	Free to tune in
	To start a podcast, all you need is a smartphone with a mic, a computer, and software to edit audio	To start a radio show, you need a radio station with full broadcast capabilities
	No cost to share episodes online	Cost of a license to be on air
Content	Editorial freedom. Free to create the show you like, where you can say what you like	Content is curated by radio station managers, in line with standards devised by broadcast authorities and regulators

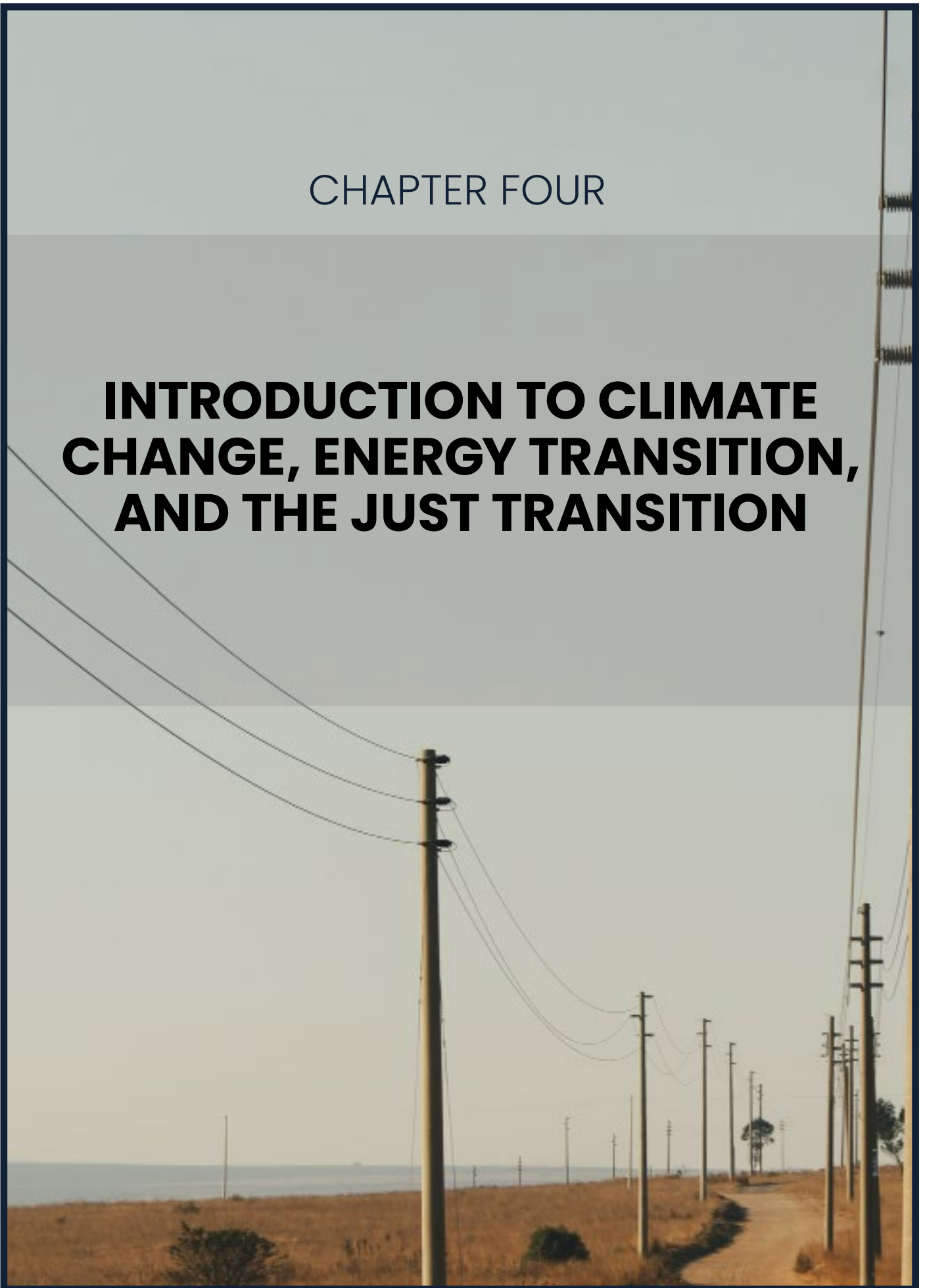
For a long time, radio was the world's only source of audio information and entertainment. However podcasting is becoming increasingly popular around the world as an alternative to listening to radio. That being said, podcasting and radio don't have to be in competition with each other and the lines between radio and podcasting are already blurring. For example, in South Africa, many radio stations are repurposing radio shows into podcasts by uploading them to places like Soundcloud, which gives their listeners the freedom to access programming in their own time. It also gives radio stations a chance to share their content, not only with local listeners, but with a global audience too.

The guides that we are sharing in the next chapters are specifically designed for you to create radio shows, but you can just as well use them to create your own nonfiction magazine podcast that you post online.

To know more about how to start a podcast, you can refer to our online guide: <https://radioworkshop.org/introduction-to-podcasting/>

CHAPTER FOUR

INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY TRANSITION, AND THE JUST TRANSITION



"Electric post, Witbank, South Africa", Unspalsh, Auston Mtabane, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Climate change has made it vital that countries like South Africa transition from fossil fuels like coal to green or renewable energy. Emalahleni is ground zero for South Africa's energy transition. With hundreds of coal mines and 12 of the country's 15 coal-fired power stations concentrated in Mpumalanga province and employing up to 80% of the local workforce, coal has been the lifeblood of local communities. How do communities make the transition while preparing for a climate-disrupted world?

If you think about the biggest issues facing your family and your community, what comes to mind? Your top concerns may be things like food and housing, access to energy, water, public services and healthcare, feeling safe and secure in your neighborhood.

What do all these things have to do with climate change? A LOT, it turns out. Climate change may seem like a distant idea, but in reality, it is already affecting people and communities across South Africa and around the world in terms of everything mentioned above, and much more.

Droughts, floods, fires, crop losses, extreme weather, disease outbreaks, sea level rise, crime and political instability – these and other climate change impacts already are and increasingly will affect peoples' jobs and livelihoods, health and homes, security and service delivery in communities, the cost of living, quality of life and other things people care about and depend upon.



Maybe you know something about climate change, but aren't quite sure why it matters so much? You are not alone! This guide is to help you explore important issues and questions, so you can help people in your community understand the changes that are coming and how to prepare for them.

Putting it simply, climate change is happening now because we are polluting the atmosphere with fossil fuels, causing changes to global weather patterns. This affects the delicate balance of life on our planet, which is sustained through a web of complex relationships between land, sea, air and many diverse living beings. We need a healthy planet to produce everything our lives depend on: clean water, air, plants and fungi, food and a stable climate. However, pollution from fossil fuels traps too much heat from the sun in the atmosphere, causing disruptions to the environment and upsetting the delicate balance that sustains life on earth.

This is a big challenge because our global economy runs on fossil fuels. That needs to change, but it won't be easy. We all depend on the fossil fuel economy. Whether we are a bus driver, a textile worker or a coal mine worker. Our jobs, our trips to the supermarket and countless other daily activities connect us to those same fossil fuels that are destroying our planet and future – so how do we shift this?

Just Energy Transition is a concept to help people and industries adopt cleaner energy sources and technologies, and build a new Green Economy that is fairer and more inclusive. There is a lot of debate in government, industry and communities about what this means and how to bring it about. South Africa faces particular challenges because its economy is so fossil energy intensive. Other challenges such, as high inequality, unemployment and poverty are also shaping the dynamics of South Africa's energy transition. What is the scope of a just transition? What are the possibilities and what are their limitations? Once you begin to consider things like the historic injustices contributing to widespread poverty and vulnerability, and the rights of future generations, the question of a just transition becomes very complex.



We know that transition is coming: if we don't act on climate change, things may get so bad that we will not have a liveable future at all. The question is how to reduce the pain of transition, especially for those most directly affected by it, while making it as fair and inclusive as possible? How can transition help to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, while making some things better in our communities and lives?

Strong community voices and actions are essential to shaping South Africa's Just Energy Transition. Important questions to consider are: what are the costs of not taking action? How will this affect jobs, food and energy security, the economy, the cost of living, etc? What opportunities do communities have to benefit from positive climate action? What are the rights and responsibilities of people, communities, governments, the private sector, etc, in navigating a just transition? How do communities exercise their voice in decision-making?

**There is
no time
to lose.**

The more fossil fuels we burn, the worse the problem gets. The longer we wait to make the transition to a Green Economy, the harder it will be to mitigate the harm of climate change and the fewer opportunities there will be to make positive changes to communities. The conversations being had in communities now will impact the future, and especially the lives and possibilities of future generations.



For more information, please see the links below:

[Just Transition Fact Sheet and Radio Guide](#)
[Climate Change Radio Production Guide](#)

DEFINITIONS

Justice: South Africa's Framework for a Just Transition calls for distributive justice, **procedural justice** and **restorative justice**. This means that no group should be unfairly burdened by the transition; that everyone who is affected must have a voice in the process of transition; and that injustices of the past and present must be addressed through the process where possible. For example, communities and workers who lose their livelihoods in the transition are **entitled to support** so they can recover their livelihoods. But their needs must also be addressed in a way that balances the needs and rights of many other groups. This is where the scope is important: A narrower understanding of Just Transition may focus on workers whose jobs are directly affected by the transition; while a broader concept may attempt to address deeper systemic issues such as poverty, unemployment and inequality as part of a Just Transition while also attempting to **balance the diverse rights and needs** of the young and the old, people with different skills and education levels, men, women and children, and so forth.

Vulnerability: People around the world are increasingly vulnerable to losing their food, health, shelter and livelihoods from the impacts of climate change. South Africa's extreme levels of inequality make some more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change than others. Climate change raises **different kinds of shocks and vulnerabilities for different people and communities**. People with education, job skills and savings will find it easier to move to another community or find a job in a new field. Some will risk losing their **livelihoods**, while others' incomes will be more secure. The young and the old, men and women, urban and rural dwellers, migrants and locals, for example, will all experience different kinds and **levels of risks and vulnerabilities** due to different aspects of climate change.

Resilience is the **ability to cope with change**. Resilience involves being able to bounce back from a shock, or make positive changes in response to new realities. **Most people and communities are not well prepared for the impacts of climate change that are coming**. From our infrastructure to the structure of our economies and the social protections available to people, we need to find ways of helping people and communities become more resilient to climate change. This means protecting people from the worst impacts of climate change and ensuring they have ways of coping with unforeseen shocks and challenges when they do hit.

Agency is the ability to make decisions about your life. Your actions matter more than you might think. How we respond to climate change will influence the future. That is why it is so important to have informed conversations about climate change in the community now. As people in the community develop and articulate a clear vision of the futures they want, they develop the tools to make these visions a reality.

Intergenerational justice: Think about the world your children or grandchildren or great-great grandchildren might live in. The longer governments and communities wait to take action to reduce fossil fuel emissions and adapt to low-carbon lifestyles, the worse the impacts of climate change will be and the harder it will be to respond to them. If we adopt resilient, low-carbon thriving lifestyles now, our children and grandchildren will inherit those positive adaptations we make, as well as a healthier planet to live on. If we delay taking action and let problems get worse, the future inherited by our children and grandchildren will hold harder problems to navigate and fewer possibilities for thriving.

Adaptation means making changes to adjust to a changing environment. Adapting to climate change involves making changes to our economy, infrastructure, transportation and lifestyles so that we are more resilient to shocks such as droughts and flooding, natural disasters, pandemics and disease outbreaks, health problems from extreme heat, polluted air, and water, and infrastructure failure. Adaptations might include putting social protection measures in place, for example, or rehabilitating or reforesting land to make people safer from natural disasters.

Mitigation means taking action to slow the pace of climate change. This means reducing emissions from burning fossil fuels, including oil, gas and coal.

Regeneration means restoring land and ecosystems that have lost their ecological function. Regenerative practices can help with both adaptation and mitigation of climate change. Decades of mining, power generation and industry in Mpumalanga have destroyed land and polluted air and water. Rehabilitation of mining land is an urgent priority with the potential to provide (short-term, limited) employment as part of a just transition.

GET THE FACTS/BUST THE MYTHS

MYTH	FACT
The transition is easy and there is a simple way to do it	Transitioning from a fossil fuel dependent to a more decarbonised economy is complex and involves many layers, such as the social, economic, and context-specific implications. There is no simple solution or quick-fix answer, such as a magical change from coal to green technology. There are many possible ways to make such a transition more just, but this will need to involve the voices of all, including a strong civil society. Just transition is being applied in situations around the world. In Poland, for example, 75% of jobs in the coal mining sector were lost in less than two decades. By working collaboratively, unions and the government were able to introduce a Mining Social Package that included retraining and financial support that helped miners transition into other industries. This response also prevented social unrest due to the layoffs.
Technology will solve everything	Although advancements in technology have allowed for many amazing things, the public perception of the capabilities of technology is often grossly exaggerated. The implementation of advanced technology requires more highly skilled and educated labour. This is a big challenge in South Africa as only 7% of adults have some form of tertiary education as of 2018, and the percentage of those that have their education in technical fields is even lower. (OECD)
We can keep the status quo	A business-as-usual scenario, in the long term, is not realistic for the following reasons. The cost of coal-fired power has risen, and cheap (accessible) coal reserves are depleting. Coal-dependent communities face major health risks as air and water become polluted. Lastly, as the world transitions towards a decarbonised economy, the international demand for coal will decrease, resulting in a major blow to coal-dependent communities. Possible evidence of a decrease in demand is the 29-year low in coal exports South Africa experienced in 2022. (Market screener)

Youth, in particular, need to be more actively involved in conversations about the South African energy transition as their future is the most at stake. [A recent study](#) shows that over 37% of youth in Mpumalanga are not in education, employment or training, even though the vast majority express an interest in work. Policies and interventions around the energy transition must be aligned with the needs and wants of these vulnerable youth, or existing socio-economic inequalities will only be exacerbated. At the same time, [young people are aware of the climate change crisis](#) and are often leading advocates for renewable energy solutions, as made evident by the recent [#CancelCoal court case](#).

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CHAPTER FIVE

SOCIAL PROTECTION

"Coal mine", Unsplash, Albert Hyseni, 2020

INTRODUCTION

Social protection is an approach or intervention to support people who face different risks and vulnerabilities in their lives. The South African government already offers different social protections to people depending on their needs, including social grants, unemployment insurance, job creation and work programmes, medical services and housing subsidies. Other social protection measures may arise in response to more specific needs and circumstances, such as the temporary relief grants during the COVID-19 pandemic that helped vulnerable families survive in a time of extraordinary disruption.

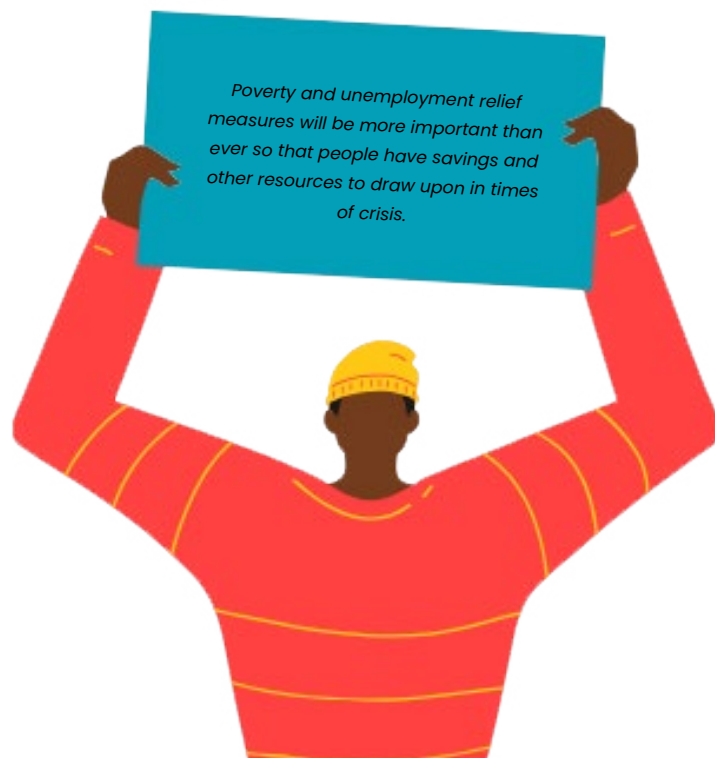


South Africa already faces a triple burden of poverty, high inequality and high unemployment, making the need for and challenges of social protection even greater. As people are exposed to more shocks and stresses from human-caused climate change, they will increasingly need different support systems and safety nets. This will put a huge strain on the government, whose resources and capacities for service delivery are already weakened from years of corruption and other constraints.

The needs are immense, and to many, it is not yet clear how the government plans to support the Just Transition in concrete terms. Thousands of workers retrenched from the coal industry require support to transition to new livelihoods in a Just Transition, **including contract workers like cooks and cleaners in the worker hostels who may be falling through the gaps.** Thousands more people in different communities and circumstances across South Africa need other kinds of assistance to deal with health problems, disease, and loss of their homes, livelihoods, and businesses due to floods, droughts, fires, and other climate change-related disasters. In 2022, for example, intense coastal flooding in areas of KwaZulu-Natal killed 500 people, destroyed 4,000 homes, and left 45,000 people without their livelihoods, with more than USD \$2 billion worth of damage to businesses and infrastructure like roads, bridges, schools and clinics. Other parts of the country have been equally crippled by drought and fires.

In some cases, social protections are needed to help prevent disasters or strengthen people's resilience to them. For example, housing upgrades can help protect people living in informal settlements and floodplains from extreme flooding. In other cases, social protections could become necessary as part of the disaster response once a crisis happens.

Different people will need different kinds of social protection, both preventative and responsive, whether in the form of grants, skills development or other relief measures. Children and the elderly may need special healthcare provisions due to the effects of air and water pollution. Alternatively children may need help accessing food when their schools are closed due to natural disasters. Workers who lose jobs will need upskilling and financial assistance as well as new job opportunities. Farmers with a high risk of loss or damage to crops will need affordable insurance.



All this underlines the importance of partnerships between the government, the private sector, NGOs, and communities to help prevent, build resilience, respond to, and recover from different climate disasters. It can take years for people and communities to recover from disasters, and sometimes, they don't even have a chance to recover before the next disaster strikes.

A recent report on Just Energy Transition financing found that eMalahleni and other municipalities affected by coal plant closures will need stronger capacities to absorb the funding for a Just Transition and use it effectively. Many municipalities around the country struggle even with basic service delivery like clearing storm drains, filling potholes, and maintaining buildings like clinics that will be more important than ever as climate change bites. Communities will be in a stronger position if they can organise themselves and partner with other community and non-profit groups already working in the area to demand accountability from the government.



GET THE FACTS/BUST THE MYTHS

MYTH

"There is no help coming to eMalahleni from the government. We are on our own."

FACT

Policy documents across national, provincial and municipal governments call for a range of social protection measures targeted towards meeting the specific needs of different groups of people in a just transition. But so far, it is not clear how these policies translate into actions on the ground. Implementing concrete measures in the communities where they are needed will be a major test of government efficiency.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Women and children are often more vulnerable in disasters. A 2019 study explored the adaptation and vulnerability experiences of women after flooding events in South Africa – finding that girls and women were at risk of increased abuse and discrimination in some instances.
- A study in Indonesia found that cash grants combined with advisory services to vulnerable households in Indonesia helped people to protect their livelihoods and assets and develop greater resilience to climate-related disasters.



SOCIAL PROTECTION is an approach or intervention to support people who face different risks and vulnerabilities in their lives.

CASE STUDY:

RESPONDING TO THE DURBAN FLOODS

In April 2022, coastal areas of Kwazulu-Natal were inundated with heavy rainfall – more than 300mm of rain fell in less than 24 hours. It was the worst natural disaster in the province's recent history. 500 people were killed, more than 4,000 homes were destroyed, 40,000 people were left homeless and 45,000 people temporarily lost their jobs, with some US \$2 billion in damage to infrastructure and businesses.

Such events show how important it is that communities and the government are better prepared, both in terms of their disaster readiness through efficient service delivery and early warning systems, and in their response to disasters when they arise.

The KZN floods also showed how severe the impacts of disaster can be for those who are already vulnerable. For example, many of those displaced were living in informal settlements prone to flooding and had limited savings or other resources to fall back on. Many women and children especially remained for months in temporary shelters without housing or employment. The lessons showed the importance of tackling many social issues at once in order to increase people's resilience to disaster: food security, quality of housing, unemployment and emergency response systems.

RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

ANGLES: DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT SOCIAL PROTECTION

- What is social protection?
- Who will be affected by the energy transition?
- What type(s) of social protection might be needed for the energy transition to be more just?



CHOOSE AN ANGLE

What type(s) of social protection might be needed for the energy transition to be more just?

WAYS TO TALK ABOUT (SUB-ANGLES) “WHAT TYPE(S) OF SOCIAL PROTECTION MIGHT BE NEEDED FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION TO BE MORE JUST?”.

- How will the reduction of coal mining affect my community’s economy?
- How will it affect the people of my community?
- What can be the role of the ‘Social Dialogue for Just Transition’ in my community?
- How will the reduction of coal mining affect the natural environment in my community?
- What will be the consequences of the reduction of coal mining on undocumented migrants and underaged workers in my community who rely on jobs in mining?

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 who has been thinking deeply about the topic of the energy transition and wants to share their opinion.



EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FOR AUDIO COMMENTARY:

Considering all the challenges faced by the community of eMalahleni in the transition away from coal. What type(s) of social protection might be needed for the energy transition to be more just?



VOX POP



AIM:

To get many opinions on one topic.



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

A large number of community members.



POSSIBLE VOX POP QUESTION FOR THE GENERAL COMMUNITY:

"Who is (or will be) affected by the energy transition away from coal? And in what way?"



INTERVIEW



AIM:

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



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

- A youth activist in eMalahleni
- A community activist in eMalahleni
- A community development person in eMalahleni



EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW:

- How long have you been living in in eMalahleni?
- What do you see as the major challenges of transitioning away from coal?
- In what way can people build resilience in facing this transition?
- (follow up question) What else needs to change?
- What what type(s) of social protection might be needed for the energy transition to be more just?
- Who's role is it to build resilience and put social protection sfety nets in place.
- (Follow up question) What is the role of Government? What can the community? What can individuals do?



SOCIAL PROTECTION is an approach or intervention to support people who face different risks and vulnerabilities in their lives.

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

[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 building resilience and what type(s) of social protection might be needed for the energy transition we are facing to be more just?

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: We want to hear today from community members how the transition away from coal is affecting them.

PLAY VOX POP

Host 1: Let's talk about social protection.

Host 2: *"The South African government already offers different social protections to people depending on their needs, including social grants, unemployment insurance, job creation and work programmes, medical services and housing subsidies. They offered temporary relief grants during the COVID-19 pandemic"* (fact sheet).

Host 1: The needs are immense in

South Africa, and as we have heard the transition away from coal will bring further hardships. *"Thousands of workers retrenched from the coal value chain require support to transition to new livelihoods in a just transition. And people will also be exposed to more shocks and stresses from human-caused climate change, they will increasingly need different support systems and safety nets. This will put a huge strain on the government, whose resources and capacities for service delivery are already weakened from years of corruption and capacity constraints."* (fact sheet).

Host 2: We spoke to **[name of person that did audio-profile]**, working in eMalahleni for **[number of years]** to understand his experience with the new challenges emerging from the energy transition away from coal in eMalahleni, and how they are currently being addressed?

PLAY AUDIO-PROFILE

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

Host 1: "Different people will need different kinds of social protection, both preventative and responsive, whether in the form of grants, skills development or other relief measures. Children and the elderly may need special provisions". (fact sheet)

Host 2: *"Workers who lose jobs will need upskilling and financial assistance as well as new job opportunities. Poverty and unemployment relief measures will be more important than ever so that people have resources to draw upon in times of crisis."*

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]** what type(s) of social protection might be needed for the energy transition to be more just?

PLAY AUDIO -COMMENTARY

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

Host 1: *"Policy documents across the levels of national, provincial and municipal government call for a range of social protection measures targeted towards*

meeting the specific needs of different groups of people in a just transition. But so far, it is not clear how these policies translate into actions on the ground."

Host 1: It makes me wonder what can we do at an individual and community level?

Host 2: We asked some of these question to **[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 audio-profile to provide closure and transition]**

Host 2: Let's hear now from our listeners... **[share ways in which they can comment and participate in the show]**

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

OPEN LINES FOR LISTENERS FEEDBACK

Host 1: Yes, that if the topic for many conversations and shows! But remember, we are all in this together!

[OUTRO:]

Host 2: Please send us your thoughts, ideas, and feedback, and add your voice to the conversation on **[add all ways listeners can engage: Call, SMS, WhatsApp, Social media....]**

Thank you to everyone who called in and shared! But now it's time for us to go. Catch us next week on **[DAY]** at **[TIME]** where we'll be talking all about **[NEXT WEEK'S SHOW TOPIC]**. Until then, it's bye from us!

SAMPLE SHOW OUTLINE

General Intro
Intro Vox Pop
Vox Pop
Outro Vox Pop
Music transition
Intro audio profile
Audio audio profile
Outro audio profile
Music transition & jingle
Intro audio commentary
Audio commentary
Outro audio commentary
Intro interview
Audio interview
Outro interview
Music transition & jingle
General outro
Music end

A photograph of a mining operation. In the foreground, there are large, dark, textured piles of material, likely coal or ore. In the background, there is industrial machinery, including conveyor belts and a truck, set against a backdrop of green, hilly terrain. The text "CHAPTER SIX" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font in the upper middle section.

CHAPTER SIX

GREEN JOBS

"Africa Mining and industry", Unspalsh, Tatenda Mapigoti, 2021

INTRODUCTION

What job prospects does a Green Economy offer youth?

While the coal economy is nearing its end, the Green Economy is a new sector that is growing rapidly. Over the last 100 years in Mpumalanga, people's jobs and livelihoods have been heavily concentrated in the coal sector. As those opportunities now disappear, new industries and value chains are stimulating the growth and further potential of new kinds of jobs.

10 different types of green job sectors are recognised as growth areas for a Green Economy:

- **Agriculture:** Sustainable agriculture, food production and forestry
- **Biodiversity:** Resource conservation and management
- **Construction:** Green buildings and the built environment
- **Community Development:** A range of community enhancement services
- **Education:** Environmental/Sustainability Literacy
- **Energy:** Clean energy (renewables) and energy efficiency
- **Manufacturing:** Sustainable consumption and production
- **Transport:** Sustainable transport and infrastructure
- **Waste:** Sustainable waste management practices
- **Water:** Responsible water management
- **Tourism:** Green tourism

Eventually, the Green Economy will grow to replace the fossil fuel economy that exists today, instead of being just a sector in it. The new Green Economy is envisioned as a cleaner, low-carbon, socially inclusive economy. The transition is already happening. In fact, there are already many jobs out there that can be considered 'Green', in such well-established fields as tourism, regenerative farming and solar energy.

Other kinds of Green jobs may not even exist yet, but will be important in 10 years' time.

This dynamic situation poses challenges and opportunities for young people. How do you prepare yourself for the job market when things are evolving so quickly? What skills do you need? How do you access relevant training and qualifications? How do you connect with the opportunities?

Research shows that the most promising green job sectors for Mpumalanga are sustainable agriculture, clean energy, manufacturing and tourism. But it may not be as simple as gaining a certificate that gets you a job.

Many green jobs will demand specialised knowledge and skills, of course – but they will also require people to be flexible and resilient. This means that having a good educational foundation, including strong literacy and numeracy, may be more important than focusing on a specific skill. The green job market will need people who are innovative and adaptable, able to learn new skills and apply them in different ways.

For example, let's consider sustainable agriculture. Many people think you don't need special skills to be a farmworker. But when it comes to sustainable approaches like agro-forestry and agroecology, different skills and knowledge are needed for working with the complex relationships between land, water, soil, plants, microbes and fungi to produce food and get it to market in a healthy and cost-effective way. And still different skill sets are needed for tapping new opportunities in agri-entrepreneurship and value-addition.



Schools, TVETs, universities, youth work programmes and internships with local businesses can all support young people in developing the depth and breadth of skills they need to find work opportunities in these fast-moving industries.

Because change is coming so rapidly, the future is uncertain. In this context, young people can make themselves more resilient by developing diverse skills they can use for different kinds of jobs, in addition to more specialised skills. Some examples include computer skills, teamwork, hospitality skills, entrepreneurship and basic knowledge of business. Young people can also master the art of learning itself, so they can keep upskilling themselves to adapt and respond to different situations, opportunities and challenges as they arise.



GET THE FACTS/BUST THE MYTHS

MYTH

Youth have no future in eMalahleni because the coal industry is dying.

FACT

The end of coal does not have to mean the end of employment. In a just transition to a greener economy, many new needs and opportunities will arise in such diverse areas as upgrading and climate-proofing public infrastructure, land and water rehabilitation, supporting local biodiversity and green spaces, producing food and providing healthcare to local people, constructing and developing renewable energy systems, and creating new local businesses. There is unlikely to be anyone major industry that becomes the community's primary employer, but rather an ecosystem of smaller and more diverse enterprises providing different goods and services for the local community and regional economy. This new ecosystem will need all kinds of different skills and strengths to make it function well: artisans, crafters, entrepreneurs, social organisers, cooks, farmers, teachers, designers, healers, administrators, recyclers, upcyclers and much more. That would give young people many and diverse opportunities to express their own unique skills, interests and strengths in a green economy.

DID YOU KNOW?

- At its peak, the coal industry in South Africa provided 130,000 direct jobs (JET-P). In contrast, the green economy is expected to create 300,000 new jobs in Mpumalanga over the next decade. The challenge is that these jobs may be in different sectors and locations than the jobs they 'replace.'
- More than half the world's population are below the age of 30. One in five of them is neither in education, employment or training. Many young people around the world feel they don't have the knowledge and skills to prepare them for a green economy. Countries with the largest youth populations, including India, Indonesia, and Nigeria have often contributed least to climate change but are among the most vulnerable to its effects.

CASE STUDY: KUSINI WATER

Kusini Water is a social enterprise founded by Murendeni Mafumo, offering water filtration systems from nanotechnology and locally sourced macadamia nut shells to address the lack of safe, clean water in informal settlements and other communities across South Africa. The enterprise also runs a Water Champions programme, which provides skills training in water filtration, helping to create opportunities for youth and women to launch their own sustainable water enterprises offering clean water in their own communities. Find out more in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1q-27vUt6c>

CASE STUDY:

ISIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK

South Africa's third largest protected area, saved from dune mining by former President Nelson Mandela, protects the largest estuarine system in Africa. With 80% poverty and high unemployment in the surrounding communities, a partnership between the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility has employed local women and youth to restore the park ecosystems polluted by mining, sugar cane farming, and commercial forest plantations. Local ecosystem restoration not only gave young people employment, but also stimulated tourism to the area, which unlocked development of 75 new enterprises in areas such as ecotourism, beekeeping and crafts and gave young people access to further training opportunities and business skills. A further 300 jobs prioritizing youth, women and people with disabilities were created through the government's 'Cleaning and Greening' project to protect the environment and prevent pollution, highlighting the potential for job creation through partnerships in the ecosystem restoration.

RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

ANGLES: DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT GREEN JOBS

- What are green jobs?
- How do you study for a green job?
- What type of qualification do you need for a green job?



CHOOSE AN ANGLE

What are green jobs?

WAYS TO TALK ABOUT (SUB-ANGLES) “WHAT ARE GREEN JOBS?”.

- How can green jobs strengthen my community’s economy to be more resilient against looming climate change threats?
- How will it affect the people of my community?
- What can be the role of the “green jobs” in the “just transition” in my community?
- How will the maximising social and economic gains from climate change affect the natural environment in my community?
- What will the consequences of the introduction of “green jobs on undocumented migrants and underaged workers in my community who rely on informal employment be?

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 who has an understanding of what green jobs are and can talk about them.



EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FOR AUDIO COMMENTARY:

Can you tell us about green jobs? What are some of the jobs that will not be affected by the transition away from coal energy? What are some of the new jobs that will emerge from the transition?



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 is working in a green job.



EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FOR AUDIO COMMENTARY:

- When did you realise you have a GREEN job?
- Can you tell us about the work you do?
- How do you see the future of your profession?
- What kinds of opportunities do you see for youth?



INTERVIEW



AIM:

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



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

- A green job expert
- A green entrepreneur
- A green career guidance expert
- A specialist working in renewable energy, tourism or regenerative farming



EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW:

- Do you think people understand what green jobs are?
- What are the common misconceptions or misunderstandings about green jobs?
- How can young people become more resilient to the transition away from coal-based energy in Mpumalanga?
- Should the education system be transformed to prepare young people better?
- (Follow-up question) What else needs to change?
- What can a young person listening to this show do now to become more resilient?
- What are the existing green jobs that are the most prominent in Mpumalanga? And what do the future trends look like?
- (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.



POSSIBLE VOX POP QUESTION FOR THE GENERAL COMMUNITY:

Can you give me an example of a GREEN job?

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 green jobs.

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 is a green job?

PLAY VOX POP

Host 1: There are lots of ideas about what Green jobs are

Host 2: "There are 10 different types of green job sectors are recognised as growth areas for a Green Economy:

Agriculture: Sustainable agriculture, food production and forestry

Biodiversity: Resource conservation and management

Construction: Green buildings and the built environment

Community Development: A range of community enhancement services

Education: Environmental/Sustainability Literacy

Energy: Clean energy (renewables) and energy efficiency

Manufacturing: Sustainable consumption and production

Transport: Sustainable transport and infrastructure

Waste: Sustainable waste management practices

Water: Responsible water management

Tourism; Green tourism (fact sheet).

Host 1: Eventually, the Green Economy will grow to replace the fossil fuel economy that exists today, instead of being just a sector in it.

Host 2: "The new Green Economy is envisioned as a cleaner, low-carbon, socially inclusive economy. The transition is already happening. In fact, there are already many jobs out there that can be considered 'Green', in such well-established fields as tourism, regenerative farming and solar energy (fact sheet)."

Host 1: "Other kinds of Green jobs may not even exist yet, but will be important in 10 years time (fact sheet)"

Host 2: We spoke to [name of person who did audio-profile], working in [give background] for [number of years], to understand his experience of green jobs?

PLAY AUDIO-PROFILE

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

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

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] What are some of the jobs that will not be affected by the transition away from coal energy? What are some of the new jobs that will emerge from the transition?

PLAY AUDIO –COMMENTARY

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

Host 1: *"Research shows that the most promising green job sectors for Mpumalanga are sustainable agriculture, clean energy, manufacturing and tourism. But it may not be so simple as gaining a certificate that gets you a job (fact sheet)"*

Host 1: *"Many green jobs will demand specialised knowledge and skills, of course – but they will also require people to be flexible and resilient. This means having a good educational foundation. But also, the green job*

market will need people who are innovative and adaptable, able to learn new skills and apply them in different ways (fact sheet)"

Host 2: We asked some of these questions to **[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 audio profile to provide closure and transition]

Host 2: Let's hear now from our listeners... **[share ways in which they can comment and participate in the show]**

OPEN LINES FOR LISTENERS FEEDBACK

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

SAMPLE OUTLINE

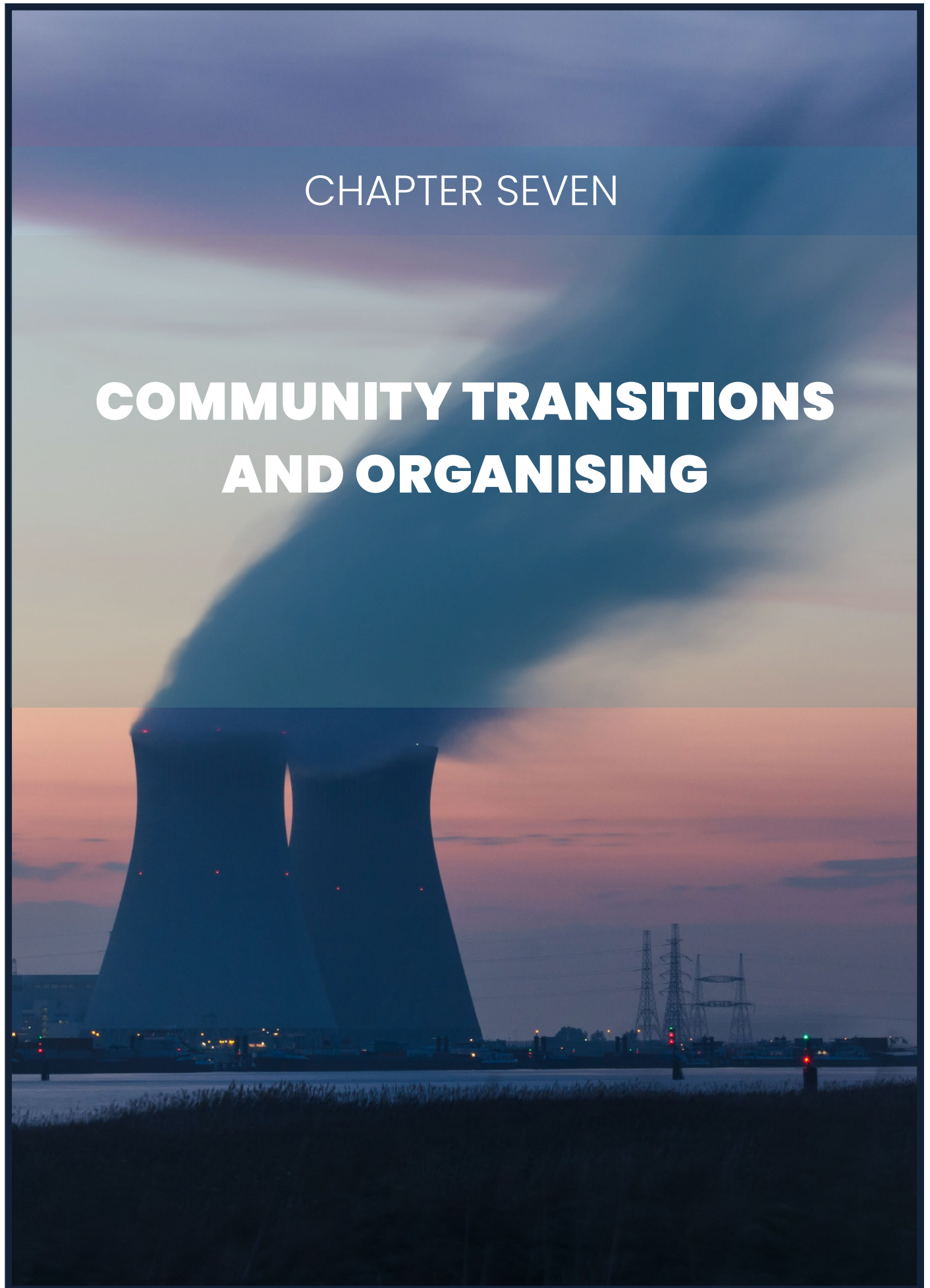
Use your produced radio features, your research and the suggested script and questions to write your own script.

SAMPLE SHOW OUTLINE

General Intro
Intro Vox Pop
Vox Pop
Outro Vox Pop
Music transition
Intro audio profile
Audio audio profile
Outro audio profile
Music transition & jingle
Intro audio commentary
Audio commentary
Outro audio commentary
Intro interview
Audio interview
Outro interview
Music transition & jingle
General outro
Music end

CHAPTER SEVEN

COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS AND ORGANISING



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

INTRODUCTION

A Just Energy Transition ‘cannot be just if communities are left behind.’ So how do communities organise themselves to ensure that a “Just Transition” meets their needs? How can communities organise themselves to become stronger and more resilient while facing climate change?

Community organising brings people together to work cooperatively towards making changes for the common good. Community organising is not about pinning responsibility on communities for the services that the government should be delivering. Rather, it is a tool for empowerment. It is about strengthening community voices so that people can speak up for their needs, and take unified, coordinated action on important matters that affect their lives.

A local example of community organising is the Khutula Environmental Care group, formed by concerned citizens in Mpumalanga, to hold mining companies and the government accountable for the devastating health and environmental effects of coal on communities.

Communities in other parts of South Africa have organised in all kinds of different ways – they have formed ‘walking trains’ to help children pass safely through dangerous neighbourhoods on their way to school. They have formed food banks and community gardens to support those who are food insecure. And in the Durban floods of 2022, communities worked with local universities and government officials to identify dangers and monitor the situation in real-time, helping to protect people and avoid damages during the storm. Community radio is also an important resource as it provides a platform for mobilising communities, sharing information and responding to emergencies.

So, how might you start organising your community? A good place to start is to talk with people in your community about the things that matter to them and look for small actions and solutions you can take together. If people are concerned about jobs, could you form a group to learn together about the opportunities for a green economy in your town? If people are worried about the cost of food, could you start a community garden, or strengthen an existing one? If people are concerned about service delivery, could you organise a meeting with your local councilor to discuss practical

constructive solutions? Could you find new ways to support the efforts that people in your community are already making, such as collecting food for those in need? Or planting trees for cleaner air? Or cleaning up rubbish that pollutes nearby water sources?

Often, the most successful community organising efforts begin with small steps. By continuing to build on these small steps over time, you help people work together towards a common goal, make mistakes and then learn from them, build trust and develop agency so that the community develops confidence in its abilities to advocate for and make desirable change.



GET THE FACTS/BUST THE MYTHS

MYTH

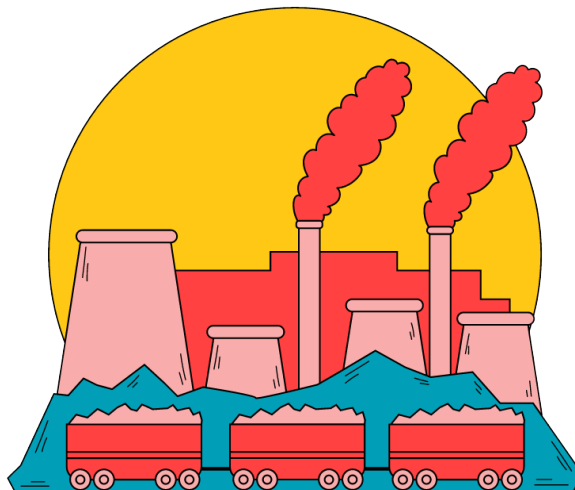
Communities must wait for the government to come forward with solutions to a just transition

FACT

Communities affected by the energy transition have a lot to gain by organising themselves, even if the information is not forthcoming from the government. In fact, that is all the more reason to do so. When the Komati coal-fired power plant closed down in late 2022, workers were given less than a year’s warning. Communities suffered because there was not enough time to prepare or implement the plans outlined on paper for creating new jobs and retraining workers. A report from the Presidential Climate Commission sharing lessons from the closure stressed the importance of listening to communities and leveraging their ideas as part of a just transition. What do you think? If communities develop their own concrete proposals and solutions and bring these to the table, will it lead to better outcomes?

DID YOU KNOW?

- Local fact: A scientific report commissioned in 2017 by the organisation Groundwork found that air pollution from South Africa's coal plants killed 2,200 people each year, causing thousands of cases of asthma and bronchitis and cost the economy more than 30 billion rands a year in health costs and lost productivity. Do you think community organising could help to address this situation?
- Global fact: Community-owned micro-grids are small-scale energy systems that are designed to enable small communities, businesses, neighbourhoods or farms to generate their own electricity independently, for example, using solar panels or small wind turbines. Community-owned microgrids are increasingly being used by neighborhoods and towns in the USA and Europe that cooperatively own and run their own miniature power grids that run on renewable energy. These systems have helped communities build their resilience to major grid power failures due to human climate caused disasters like wildfires and hurricanes. Eskom has launched a Rooftop Photovoltaic Minigrid Project that is being tested in a community near Stellenbosch called the Lynedoch Eco-Village. What do you think? Could community-owned renewable energy micro-grids work in Emalahleni?



CASE STUDY: THE KHUTHALA ENVIRONMENTAL CARE GROUP

The Khuthala Environmental Care Group is a non-profit organisation that has been fighting the devastating health and environmental effects of coal on communities in Mpumalanga since 2000. Across the group's history of community organising, volunteers have coordinated their efforts and developed their capacities in many different ways. They have lobbied and worked with other NGOs to take the government to court for its failure to address air quality. They have demanded that mining companies fulfil their legal obligations to rehabilitate the land when they end their operations, while raising awareness of more than 800 abandoned mines in Mpumalanga that threaten people's health and safety.

The group founded a women's movement in 2019 and has been actively raising environmental awareness in schools and hospitals, running water and zero waste campaigns and planting food gardens. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, they used their organising skills to support vulnerable members of the community.

Kelly Nkosi, co-founder of the Khuthala Women's Movement, had this to say:

'The aim of the Khuthala Women's Movement (KWM) is to empower women in our community with the skills and information that will enable them to eradicate poverty through job creation programmes. At KWM, we work together towards rehabilitation and restoration, and the regeneration of degraded land. Our goal is to create social, environmental and economic benefits, particularly for women and children.'

And:

'Over time, I've nurtured and built warm and strong relationships with the women of Khuthala through open dialogue and constructive criticism. Organisations like this can inform and educate women through workshops and ongoing campaigns. Together as women, we must join forces and start pushing countries and authorities everywhere to address the climate crisis, build a green economy that includes jobs for women and protect our planet for future generations.' (Centre for Environmental Rights).



Resources for further research and reading:

Find out more about community-owned micro-grids here:

- <https://www.microgridknowledge.com/about-microgrids/article/11429017/what-is-a-microgrid>
- <https://www.sustainabilityinstitute.net/5484-eskoms-first-smart-embedded-residential-microgrid-project-piloted-at-lynedoch/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8GvZdM8Iq0>

Transition Towns are a global movement of communities that are working to transition to low-carbon, inclusive and abundant lifestyles by re-imagining their local communities and economies.

Find out more about transition towns:

- <https://transitionnetwork.org/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/transitiontowns>

Ecovillages are another global movement focused on community organising to give everyone in the community a voice in designing the local economy, social and natural environments.

Find out more about Eco Villages:

- <https://ecovillage.org/ecovillages/what-is-an-ecovillage/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgxdWxdfB2s>

RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

ANGLES: DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS AND ORGANISING

- Why do communities get organised when facing a common challenge or transition?
- Looking at examples of community organising across the country and world.
- In what way should our community get organised to meet the challenges of transition?



COMMUNITY TRANSITIONS AND ORGANISING

CHOOSE AN ANGLE

In what way should our community get organised to meet the challenges of transition?

WAYS TO TALK ABOUT (SUB-ANGLES) “In what way should our community get organised to meet the challenges of transition?”.

- Prioritizing people
- Driving local solutions
- Building public support
- Supporting green jobs
- Community ownership

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 who has been thinking deeply about community organising and wants to share their reflections.



QUESTIONS

In what ways is the community already organised? What is challenging about community organising? What are the ways in which the community could organise itself better?



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 worked in the field of community organising or who has been part of a project in which a community organised itself and achieved one of its goals.



QUESTION

- What successes have you experienced in community organising?



INTERVIEW



AIM:

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



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

- A youth activist in eMalahelni
- A community activist in eMalahelni
- A community development person in eMalahelni



EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW:

- How long have you been living in eMalahelni?
- In what ways is the community already organised?
- Do young people organise themselves differently?
- What is challenging about community organising? (What works and what doesn't work? Are there differences in terms of sub-groups in the community, like youth?)
- What are the ways in which the community could organise itself better in terms of facing the challenges of transitioning away from coal?



VOX POP



AIM:

To get many opinions on one topic.



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

A large number of community members



QUESTION

What issues do you think the community should get better organised around when thinking of the scaling of coal?

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

[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 ways our community could get organised to meet the challenges of transition?

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: We want to hear today from community members: What issues do you think the community should get better organised around when thinking of the scaling of coal?

[PLAY VOX POP]

Host 1: Let's talk about Community Organising

Host 2: "A just energy transition cannot be just if communities are left behind. So how do communities organise themselves to ensure that a "Just Transition" meets their needs? How can communities organise themselves to become stronger and more resilient in the face of climate change?" (fact sheet).

Host 1: "Communities in other parts of South Africa have organised all kinds of different ways – they have formed 'walking trains' to help children pass safely through dangerous neighbourhoods on their way to school.

They have formed food banks and community gardens to support those who are food insecure. And in the Durban floods of 2022, communities worked with local universities and government officials to identify dangers and monitor the situation in real-time, helping to protect people and avoid damage during the storm". (fact sheet).

Host 2: We spoke to [name of person that did audio-profile], working in Emalaheni for [number of years] to understand his experience in community organising and what we are already doing.

[PLAY AUDIO-PROFILE]

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

Host 1: "So, how might you start organising your community? A good place to start is to talk with people in your community about the things that matter to them, and look for small actions and solutions you can take together" (fact sheet)

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

Host 2: "Yes, I agree! Often the most successful community organising efforts begin with small steps. By continuing to build on these small steps over time, you help people work together towards a common goal, make mistakes and then learn from them."

Host 1: Let's talk to [introduce person giving audio-commentary] about his experience.

[PLAY AUDIO -COMMENTARY]

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

Host 1: That was inspiring; there is so much interesting stuff happening out there! But I hear Community Organising also comes with its challenges.

Host 2: We asked some of these questions to [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 audio-profile to provide closure and transition]

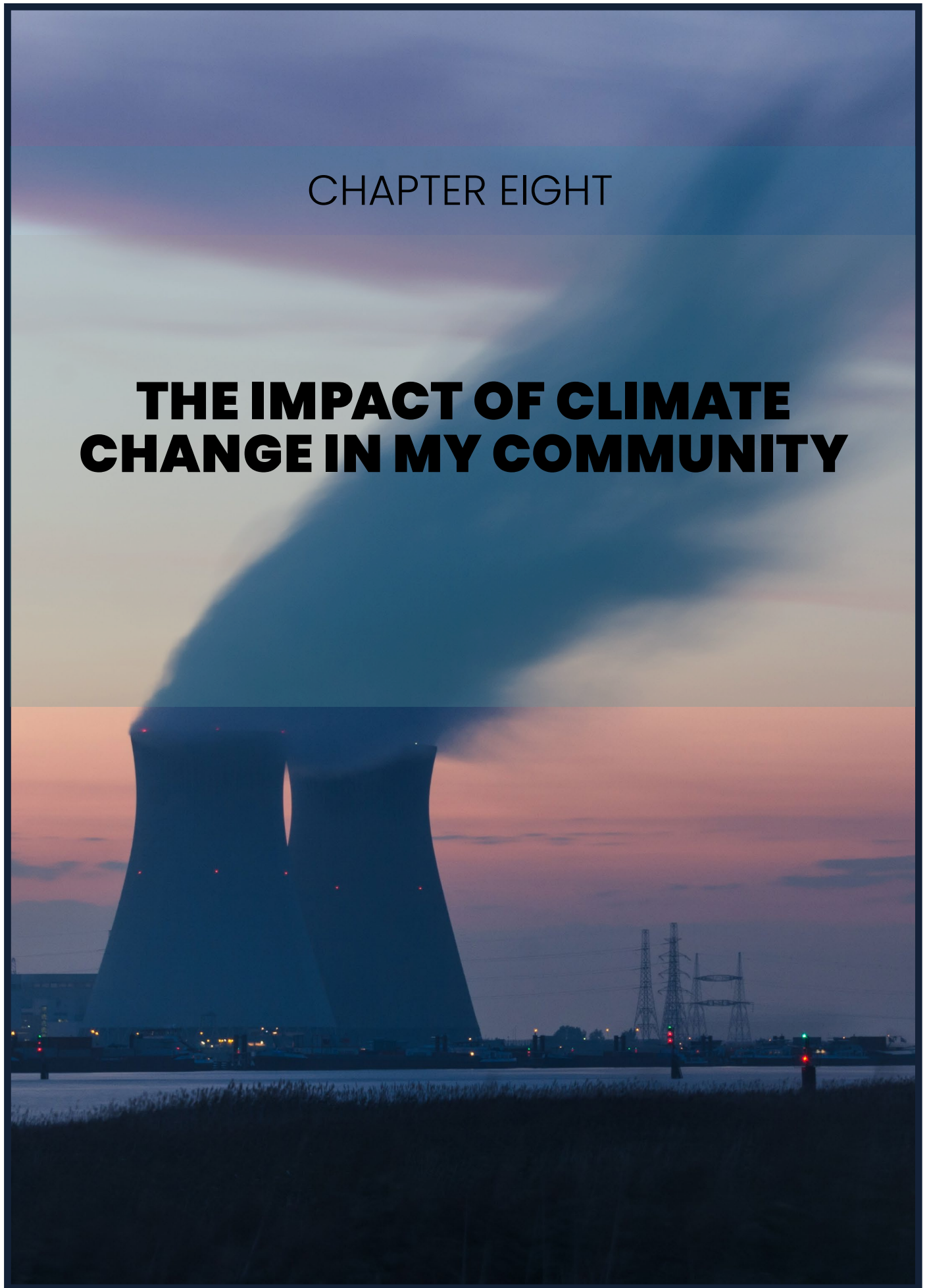
Host 2: Let's hear now from our listeners... [share ways in which they can comment and participate in the show]

OPEN LINES FOR LISTENERS FEEDBACK

Show clock

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN MY COMMUNITY



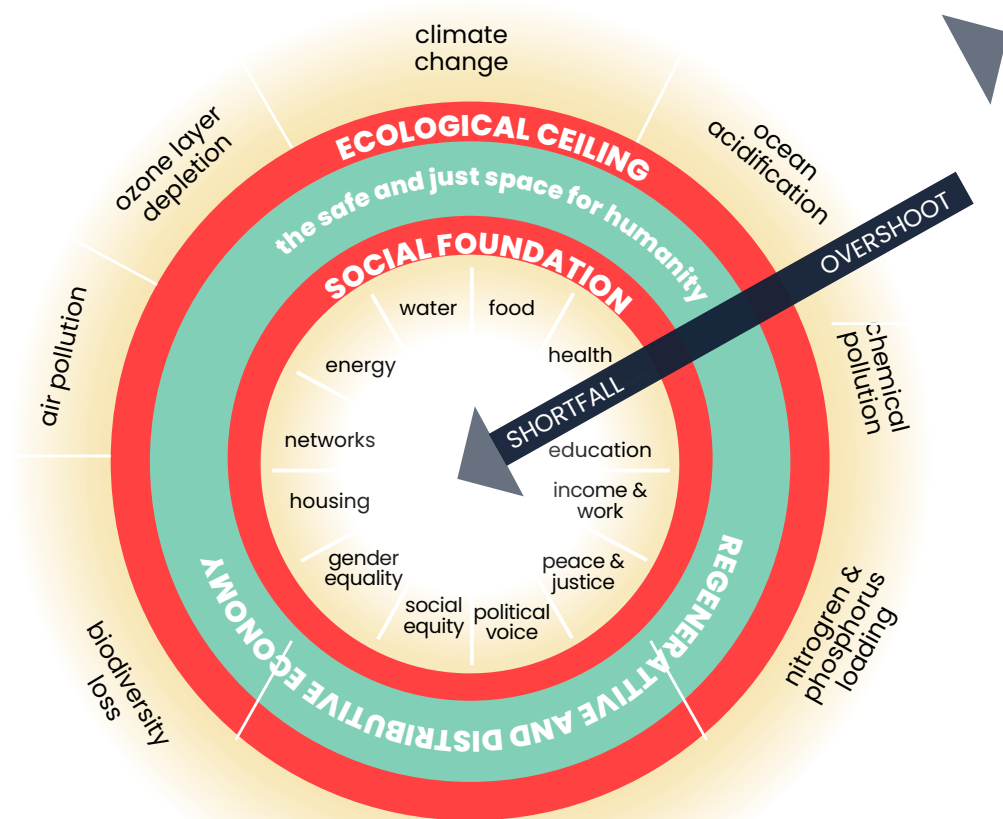
"Nuclear plant cooling tower blowing smoke", Unspalsh, Frédéric Paulussen, 2018

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](#))

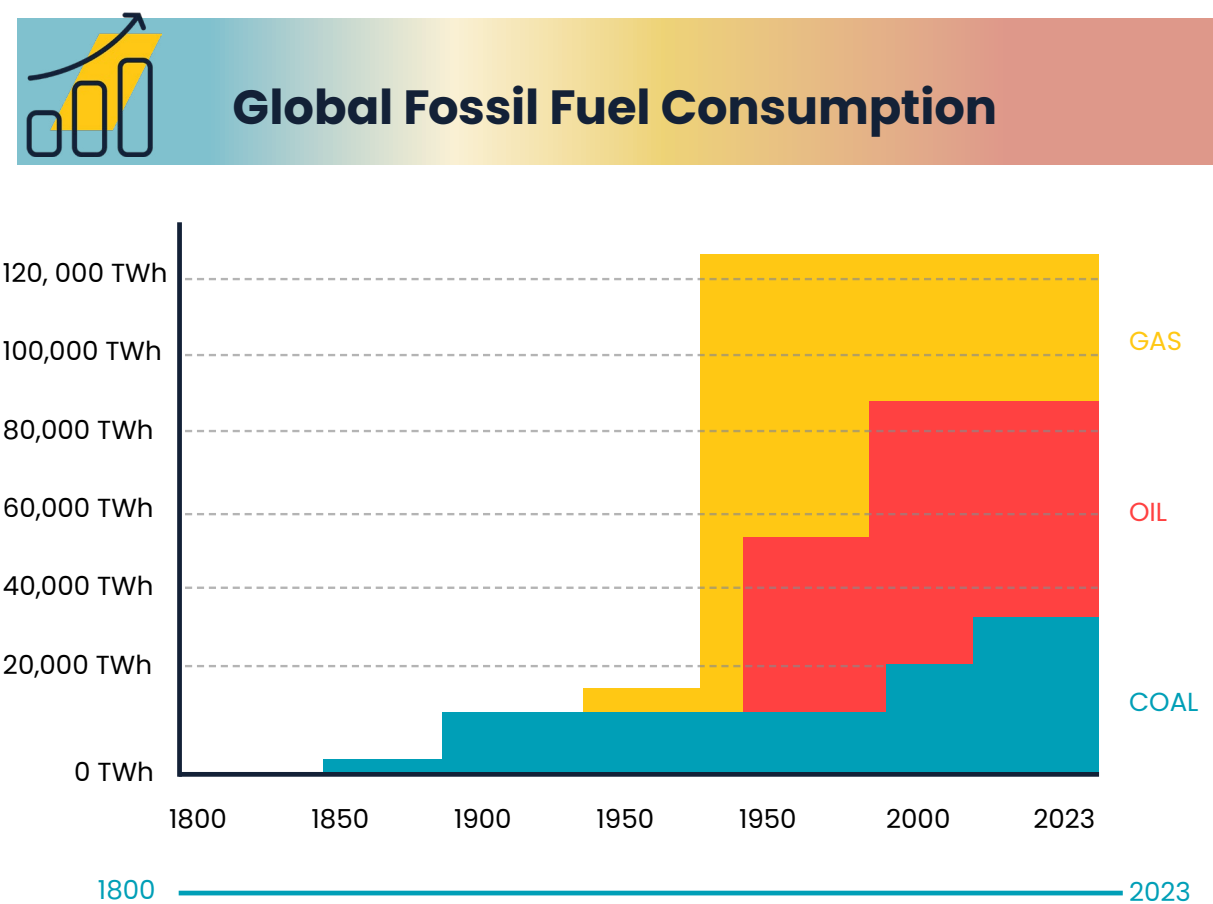


Doughnut Economic Model



‘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 and how 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, show 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.

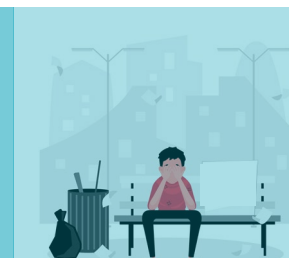
Safety of housing - greater vulnerability to storm damage and flooding



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



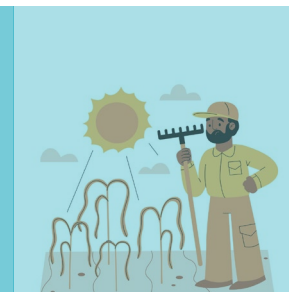
Security - insecurity rises as people lose jobs or have to move from their communities due to economic or environmental stresses



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 people's health, finances and well-being, 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 damage 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 people's 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 people's 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 celcius. 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% 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, particularly girl children, grow more likely to miss or drop out of school due to climate issues affecting 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 the impact of climate change on our community be?
- 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)

FORMATS FOR TELLING THE STORY



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

[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]

Host 1: Considering all the challenges faced by the community of eMalahleni in the transition away from coal. We asked [name the 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?

[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% 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 can comment and participate in the show]

[OPEN LINES FOR LISTENER'S FEEDBACK]

Show clock

A photograph of a person wearing a blue and white patterned sweater and a skirt with a black and white circular pattern. They are standing next to a bicycle with a pink handlebar. A white sack is in the foreground. The background is blurred, showing other people and objects.

CHAPTER NINE

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Zambia, 2016

INTRODUCTION

From food gardens to community-owned electricity production to restoring rivers and wetlands, there are a lot of positive actions that communities can take to respond to climate change and work towards a Just Transition, even with limited resources. Even small things can add up to make a big difference. Just imagine if everybody reduced their use of disposable plastics by half? Or if everyone spent one morning per month cleaning up rubbish in their community? In the small European country of Estonia, activists mobilised 4% of the entire population to clean up the whole country in just 5 hours, which would have taken their government 3 years at a cost of 22 million Euros! There is one powerful tool for creating solutions that is free to everyone—imagination. Think about your community, and notice what happens if you turn your focus from ‘what is’ ... to ‘what if?’

What if every school had a food and medicinal plant garden? What if the community owned and operated its own solar-powered microgrid, providing everyone with free access to clean energy? What if there was an entrepreneurship hub where young people could get free skills training, mentorship and seed funding? What if people had dignified jobs and could support their families by restoring degraded land and recycling waste in their communities?

What other ideas can you think of that would meet the needs and contribute to the well-being of people in your community? (Remember, the imagination has no limits!)

Organising for community solutions requires resourcefulness. What wealth, or sources of potential wealth, already exist in your community, not just in terms of money but also in terms of infrastructure, natural resources, and social networks? What skills, talents, knowledge and interests do people have? Perhaps the local seamstress has a flair for tailoring and upcycling old clothing into cutting-edge new styles? Perhaps your neighbour is an excellent cook who could partner with local farmers to offer the community tasty, nutritious, affordable, locally produced food? Perhaps someone else in your community is a retired engineer who can help design better storm drainage systems to improve flood safety? Young or old, everyone has something to contribute towards a vibrant and resilient community, especially when their individual initiatives are combined with wider community organising efforts and collaborations involving other stakeholders like NGOs, the local government and businesses.

What are some resources in your community that could help bring increased social and environmental benefits? For example, are there ways of mobilising volunteers

or raising funds that could be used to employ young people to restore polluted rivers and wetlands? Are there other interventions that would address multiple challenges at once, such as building green housing that provides jobs and creates greater climate resilience and better living conditions for people?



CASE STUDY

Transition Towns:

The question ‘what if’ comes from Rob Hopkins, the founder of the “Transition Towns” movement in the UK in 2005. There are Transition Towns in 48 different countries around the world, including one in Greyton, South Africa. These are places where people have agreed to work together to build strong, resilient, low-carbon communities and economies to meet big challenges like climate change, unemployment and food insecurity. Putting their skills and knowledge together, people in these communities are building inclusive local green economies that offer opportunities for everyone, especially youth and women.

By getting organised and making full use of its resources, there is a lot the community can do. In Greyton, South Africa, for example, people collect waste, such as plastic bottles, which they exchange for food and other household necessities. The waste is then used to create eco-bricks, which are used to build new classrooms for the school. (See video: <https://youtu.be/KseuO8YYY0s>). Another initiative helped community members to grow their own food, improving their household food security and linking them to a community market to sell their surplus produce. (See video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_gRsh3TIAI).



River and wetland restoration for flood protection:

Healthy rivers and wetlands provide important flood protection in cities and natural green spaces for people to enjoy. In eThekweni Municipality, the Sihlanzimvelo Stream Cleaning Programme, now expanded into the Transformative River Management Programme, was introduced to create work opportunities restoring local rivers degraded by pollution and blocked by rubbish and invasive vegetation. The programme employs communities to manage rivers and streams throughout the city, creating job opportunities while also increasing resilience to flooding. The stream cleaning project has employed hundreds of people to maintain some 500 kilometers of rivers and streams, and is currently being scaled up to cover more than 7,000 kilometres of the city's waterways. (See video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqUfFpButQA>).



Tapping schools for climate change solutions:

Schools offer important climate solutions! Imagine if every child learned “green skills” and about climate change in school? A study found that a combination of women’s empowerment and climate change education for all young people around the world could result in an 85 billion tonne reduction of carbon dioxide by 2050 through the cumulative impacts of behaviour change and decision-making (as opposed to a 47 billion tonne reduction from increasing investment in wind turbines, or a 19 billion tonne reduction from increasing investment in concentrated solar power) (Brookings Institute). Climate change education will soon be introduced into the school curriculum in South Africa. (See video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qvqd7TSzFrc>).



Community-owned renewable energy:

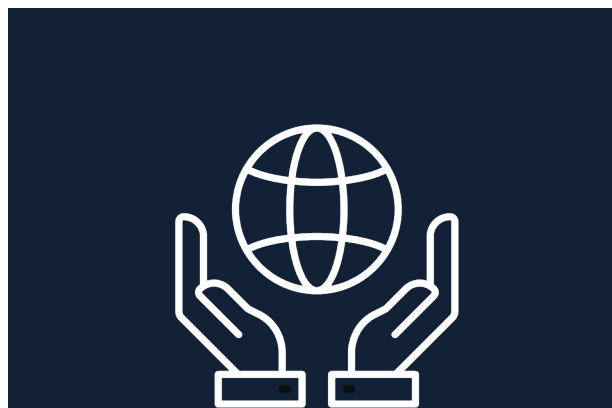
The Urban Movement Incubator (UMI) addresses energy security and service delivery, in a partnership between community-based social movements and NGOs for the installation and operation of community-led, socially owned renewable energy projects in Emalahleni, south Durban and the informal settlement of Ekhenana in eThekweni. Through the pilot project, informal communities that lacked a connection to the power grid have gained affordable energy access. (See video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyDEPfmEoGA>).



A circular waste economy:

Meanwhile, in Ekurhuleni, a partnership between the city, the NGO Oxfam and industry is building an inclusive circular economy through plastic waste recycling. A circular economy promotes maintenance, repair, recycling, upcycling and composting as ways of keeping materials and products in circulation so that they don't become waste. The programme creates employment opportunities and diverts some 8,000 tonnes of plastic waste

from landfills every year. The project supplies the reclaimed materials to product manufacturing companies such as Unilever to reuse in their packaging, and aims to create a waste processing facility that is collectively owned by community waste-pickers. (See video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GN0UUfxSemg>).



Private/community partnerships Wind Farms:

Wind Farms also provide a source of climate-smart community/private investment in communities. A 318-hectare wind farm in the Northern Cape community of Louriesfontein is now under construction. When construction is complete, it will harness wind power for energy generation and provide local jobs. A portion of the profits will be invested in a community trust. (See video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RR7IR8zV1I4>).



RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

ANGLES: DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

- In what ways have communities organised themselves, historically?
- In what ways have communities organised themselves, looking at cases?
- In what ways is my community already organised?
- In what ways could my community organise itself?



COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

CHOOSE AN ANGLE

In what ways have
communities
organised themselves
(case studies)?

**ANGLES: DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT THE WAYS THAT
COMMUNITIES HAVE ORGANISED THEMSELVES (CASE STUDIES)**

- In terms of establishing food gardens
- In terms of establishing community-owned electricity production
- In terms of organising to restore rivers and wetlands
- In terms of individuals and organisations mobilizing within their communities for clean-up efforts, volunteers to address environmental issues

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?

An expert who knows about many community initiatives in South Africa and globally and which you feel would inspire listeners to imagine new possibilities.



QUESTIONS

- In what ways have communities organised themselves in other parts of the country or world? Considering all the challenges faced by the community of eMalahleni in the transition away from coal, what might we have to learn from others?



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 been involved in a successful community organising initiative.



QUESTIONS

- Can you tell us about the community initiative you have been part of? How did it start?
- How did it grow?
- What did you achieve?
- How has the journey been, and what have you learned along the way?



INTERVIEW



AIM:

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



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

- A community activist
- An NGO staff member who works at building communities, community initiatives, or community projects?



EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW:

- How long have you been working with communities?
- What do you see as the major challenges of transitioning away from coal?
- In what way can communities build resilience in facing this transition?
- How easy is it to mobilise a community?
- Where do you start in deciding what are the most important issues to focus on and the community strategy?
- What challenges do you typically face in community solutions work?

***(Please remember to fine-tune the questions once you know who you are interviewing).**



VOX POP



AIM:

To get many opinions on one topic.



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

A large number of community members



QUESTION

- In what ways have you seen communities organise themselves? (Such as taking on an issue or action together to create a change?)

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

[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 ways in which communities organise themselves when faced with challenges.

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

Host 2: We want to hear today from community members in what ways they have seen communities organise themselves? How have communities taken action together to create change?

[PLAY VOX POP]

Host 1: Let's talk about community getting organised! From food gardens to [give examples that were mentioned in Vox Pop], there is a lot that communities can do to take positive action, even with limited resources.

Host 2: There is one powerful tool for creating solutions that is

freely available to everyone. That is imagination. Think about your community, and notice what happens if you turn your focus from 'what is' ... to 'what if?'

Host 1: What if every school had a food garden?

Host 2: What if there was an entrepreneurship hub where young people could get free skills training, mentorship and seed funding?

Host 2: What if all children felt safe and secure?

Host 1: Listeners out there, we want to hear from you: what is our imagination telling you? Remember, the imagination has no limits! Send us your ideas on [share WhatsApp, Facebook, etc contact details].

Host 2: We spoke to [name of person that did audio-profile], who has been involved in [name of the community initiative] for [number of years], to tell us more about how this initiative started, grew, and what they learned along the way.

[PLAY AUDIO-PROFILE]

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

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

Host 1: Organising for community solutions requires resourcefulness!

Host 2: Considering all the challenges faced by the community of eMalahleni in the transition away from coal. We asked [name of person that did audio-commentary + short intro to who he/she is] in what ways have communities organised themselves in other parts of the country, world or in the past? Considering all the challenges faced by the community of eMalahleni, in the transition away from coal, what might we have to learn from others?

[PLAY AUDIO -COMMENTARY]

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

Host 1: Loving all the energy, passion and ideas in this show! Just want to read some of the messages coming through from our listeners out there. [read some...]

Host 2: Working together is not always easy, though! Where do you start? We asked some of these questions to [name of person that did the 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 can comment and participate in the show]

[OPEN LINES FOR LISTENERS FEEDBACK]

CHAPTER TEN

THE GREEN ECONOMY



Chris Leboutillier, Unsplash

INTRODUCTION

In July 2024, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa signed a new Climate Change Act into law. This is a big step towards developing a green economy for the country. **A green economy is an economy that is low-carbon, resource-efficient and socially inclusive (UNECE).** The colour green is associated with plants and the natural environment. In these guides, we have been exploring various aspects of the transition from our current fossil fuel economy to a green economy. Here, we unpack some ways that a green economy is different from our current economy.

There are three levels of transition that are potentially happening now.

LEVEL 1

The first level is about **changing the energy source that powers the existing economy from fossil fuels to clean renewables like wind and solar.** At the moment, for example, old power stations and energy infrastructure, such as the power lines that carry electricity from the plants where it is produced to all the places where it is used, are being repurposed for renewable energy. However, this energy transition is only one aspect of developing a green economy.

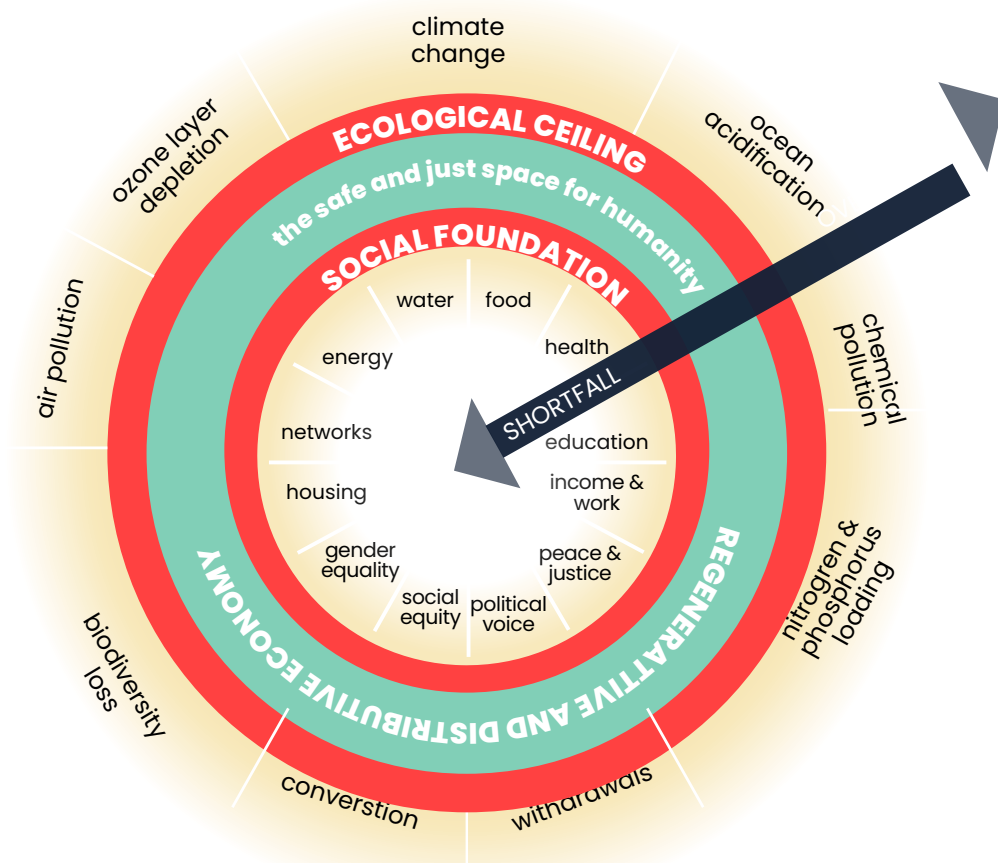
LEVEL 2

The second level of transition involves changing the economy itself. The current economy is unsustainable not only because it runs on fossil fuels but also because it is based on the extraction and consumption of natural resources and produces a lot of pollution and waste. Everything we have, make and use comes from the Earth; the minerals in our cell phones, the fibers in our clothing, the food we eat and all the other products we use. In the current economy, the more we consume, the more economic growth there is. That is seen as a good thing, but unfortunately, there are real limits to what the Earth can provide, and we have gone beyond those limits.

“The Doughnut” is an approach to thinking about how to meet everyone’s basic needs within environmental limits. Since 2009, scientists have been mapping the overall health of the Earth. Their findings show that many of the key life support systems maintaining planetary health, including the climate, have now been pushed beyond a ‘safe operating space’ for humanity. Our current economic activities, which cause things like deforestation as well as pollution and waste from industry and agriculture, are destroying the Earth’s capacity to support life, including human life. At the same time, many people around the world do not have their basic needs met, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education. The Doughnut combines scientific knowledge with an understanding of our economic and material needs to help guide us towards living within ‘a safe and just space for humanity.’



Doughnut Economic Model



“The Doughnut” is an approach to thinking about how to meet everyone’s basic needs within environmental limits. Since 2009, scientists have been mapping the overall health of the Earth. Their findings show that many of the key life support systems maintaining planetary health, including the climate, have now been pushed beyond a ‘safe operating space’ for humanity. Our current economic activities, which cause things like deforestation as well as pollution and waste from industry and agriculture, are destroying the Earth’s capacity to support life, including human life. At the same time, many people around the world do not have their basic needs met, such as food, shelter, healthcare, and education. The Doughnut combines scientific knowledge with an understanding of our economic and material needs to help guide us towards living within ‘a safe and just space for humanity.’

The Doughnut shows us a simple truth: **We need to become much better at using the resources the Earth provides while also distributing these resources much more fairly.** That means every major industry on Earth, not just coal, must change profoundly. Many industries are changing, as we will explore further in the case studies below.

A green economy calls for a new approach to design so that the things we use and consume require less energy and materials to make, last longer, and are reused or recycled at the end of their life instead of thrown away. If you go to a fast food restaurant today, for example, it is likely your food was raised or grown using lots of chemical inputs like fertilisers made with fossil energy. Your food was probably produced far from where you live, possibly even in another country, so it has to be trucked or shipped or flown over a long distance, burning even more fossil energy. The food will come wrapped in disposable paper or plastic packaging designed to be thrown away after a single use. In a green economy, however, your food would be produced locally using methods that work with nature and are light on the Earth, with minimal packaging that is either reusable or is chemical-free and easy to compost so that its nutrients are recycled to regenerate the soil.

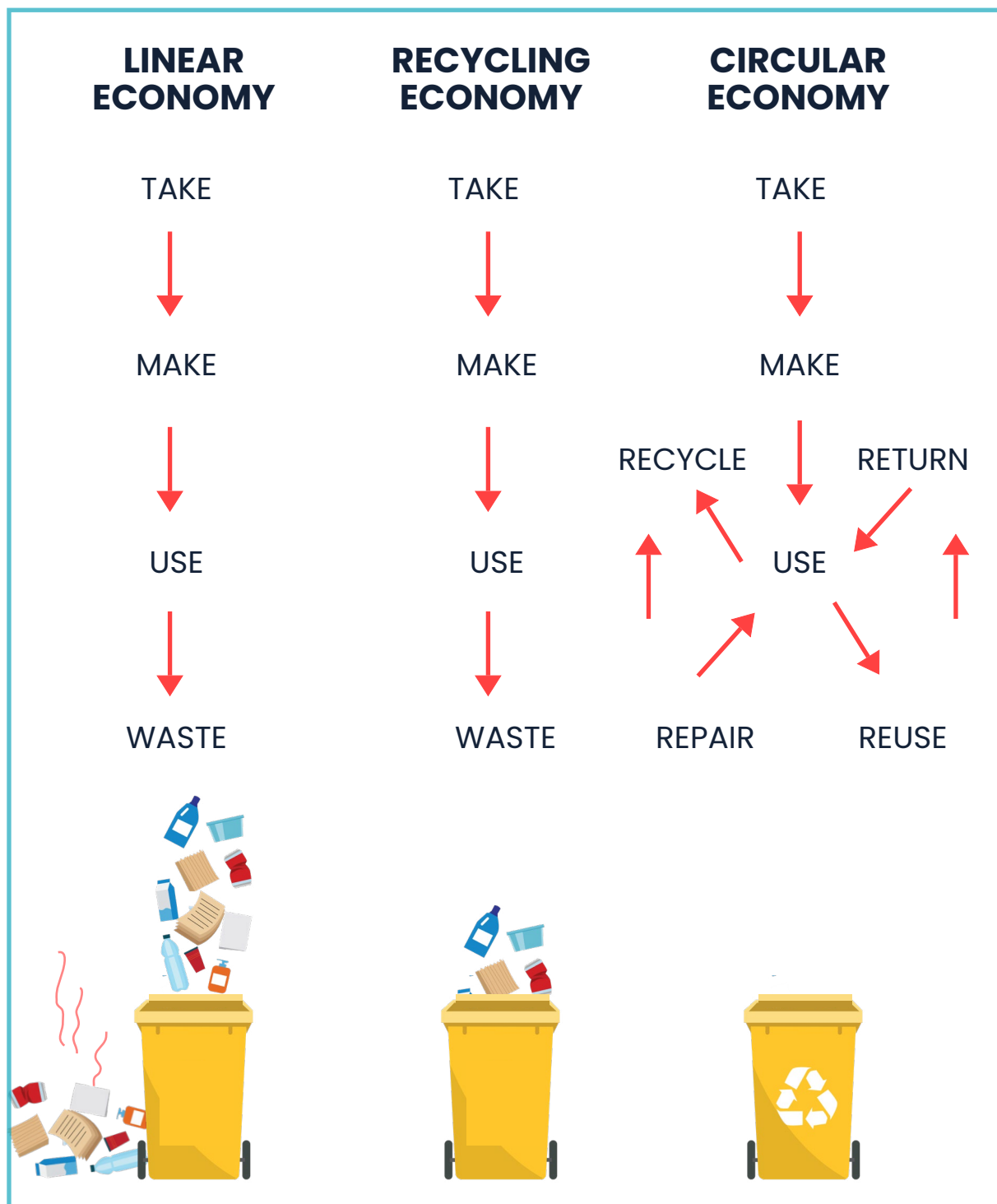
The circular economy is another term closely related to the green economy. A circular economy is based on three design principles:

- Eliminate waste and pollution
- Keep products and materials in circulation and at their highest value
- Regenerate nature (Ellen MacArthur Foundation)

A circular economy promotes maintenance, repair, recycling, upcycling and composting as ways of keeping materials and products in circulation so that they don’t become waste. For example, one company uses low-value

agricultural waste as substrate to grow mushrooms into packaging. Using these materials and manufacturing methods not only eliminates plastic, but also produces packaging that is easily and safely compostable.

Example of a circular economy



LEVEL 3

The third level of transition raises the question of a Just Transition. **How can a green economy be fairer and more inclusive than the current economy?** How can it provide opportunities to youth, women, and others who have been excluded from participating in the current economy? How can a green economy give people decent jobs and a safe, healthy environment?

The green economy will look very different to the coal economy it is replacing. It will involve many of the same industries that exist today, such as agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. But it is also likely to involve new kinds of jobs that involve caring for land and water, educating people about the environment, restoring degraded land and producing more of the things people need locally instead of importing them. Ultimately, these jobs will help improve biodiversity, water quality, and clean air and support human well-being. Yet the transition to a green economy is also challenging and tricky. There will be winners and losers. The jobs that emerge in a green economy, for example, maybe in different locations and require different skills than the jobs in the current economy. That's why it is so important to pay attention to all three levels of transition, including a Just Transition while working together with your community to make sure your voices are heard.



Resources for further research and reading:

Explaining the Circular Economy and How Society Can Re-think Progress | Animated Video Essay:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCRKvDyyHmI>



Bust the Myth Get the Facts

MYTH

All the workers who lost jobs in the coal sector will move to employment in renewable energy.

FACT

It is not quite so simple. Many of the jobs in renewables will be in other parts of the country. In some areas, such as the assembly of microgrids, there may be a lot of jobs in the next few years as the demand for new solar power installations increases. But then the demand for those skills may drop off as the sector becomes more established, and the focus shifts to maintaining the existing installations. The aim is to make a green economy more diverse than the existing, coal-dependent economy is, so that it supports all kinds of different industries and enterprises, some of which do not yet even exist. The seeds of new local, national, and global-scale green value chains are there, but they still need help to grow and mature. This uncertainty is challenging for people and communities who need steady, reliable sources of employment. One way to help navigate this uncertainty is to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset, discussed in the Youth and Green Jobs Fact Guide.

DID YOU KNOW?

Local fact: The World Bank has estimated that for every job lost in Mpumalanga's coal sector, two or three new jobs will be created in the green economy. Some 200,000 workers can be reskilled or trained for the renewables industries in Mpumalanga. Since the Komati power plant closed in 2022, Eskom has converted the plant to wind, photovoltaic and natural gas and training former staff to build and assemble renewable energy components at the power station. Yet it is not certain how sustainable many of these jobs are in the long term.

Local fact: An estimated 43% of South African households are considered energy poor, meaning that they can't meet their basic energy needs ([TIPS report pdf](#)).

Global fact: \$100 trillion will need to be invested in low-carbon infrastructure globally by 2030 as part of a just transition, which is equivalent to about a year of global GDP (Heat of the Moment Podcast).



CASE STUDY:

Sugarcrete

Scientists from the University of East London, in collaboration with an architecture studio, have developed a method of making bricks out of sugar cane waste. This new material, called 'Sugarcrete' is designed to be affordable and eco-friendly, producing between 15 and 20% of the carbon emissions of traditional bricks. This and other innovations can help green the building industry, where greenhouse gas-intensive processes like manufacturing bricks and cement contribute to global warming. See video: <https://youtu.be/RFeG4S6WuJ4>

South Africa's Climate Change Act

Will the new Climate Change Act help to bring about a greener economy? The Act will set specific targets and prices for greenhouse gas emissions, giving companies a stronger financial incentive to go low carbon. For example, companies that do not reduce their emissions may pay a higher rate of carbon tax. The Act calls for the development of specific plans for industries like energy and agriculture to reduce their emissions. It also calls on the government to develop strategies for greater resilience and adaptation to climate change at national, provincial and municipal levels. See videos: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mx_3bznfgM

And on financing the JET:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRvxS5w1x4U>

RADIO PRODUCTION GUIDE

PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

ANGLES: DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT THE GREEN ECONOMY

- What is the green economy?
- Why are we transitioning towards a green economy?
- What does a future green economy look like?



**CHOOSE AN
ANGLE**

What is the green
economy?

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 external expert) who has an understanding of the green economy.



QUESTIONS

- What is the green economy?
- Can you tell us a little bit about it?
- How can our listeners wrap their minds around why the transition towards a green economy is important and how to become part of it and grow with it?



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 understands what the green economy and is trying to build a business in it or contribute to its development in some way.



QUESTION

- When did you first start understanding what the green economy is about?
- How has your personal journey been affected by your understanding and what have you learnt on the way?

FORMATS FOR TELLING THE STORY



INTERVIEW



AIM:

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



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

- A green economy expert
- Climate change activists or NGOs doing work in this field
- Green entrepreneur/enterprise



EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEW:

- What is the green economy?
- What are the common misconceptions about the green economy?
- Why is the green economy important?
- What will the future look like when we fully transition into the green economy?
- What do you see as the major challenges of transitioning away from coal?
- In what way can people build resilience when facing this transition?

***(Please remember to fine-tune the questions once you know who you are interviewing).**



VOX POP



AIM:

To get many opinions on one topic.



WHO DO YOU TALK TO?

A large number of community members



QUESTION

- Do you know what the green economy is? (If yes, can you please describe it?)

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

[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 green economy.

Host 1: What is the green economy, one might ask?

Host 2: Yes that is exactly what we going to talk about today. We are going to try to unpack and understand this 'green economy' thing.

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

Host 2: This 'green economy' thing is not clear for everybody. I have just learnt about it recently, to be honest!

Host: 1: So to try understand it, we went out to hear what community members understood it to mean.

[PLAY VOX POP]

Host 2: It means different things, it seems, to different people, let's try unpack it a bit.

Host 1: In its simplest definition, a green economy is an economy that is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. The Green Economy is different from our current economy.

Host 2: There are three levels of transition that are happening now. The first level is about changing the energy source that powers the existing economy from fossil fuels to clean renewables like wind and solar. This is the transition we talk about in our shows because, this is what is affecting eMalahleni the most.

Host 1: The second level of transition involves changing the economy itself. The current economy is unsustainable not only because it runs on fossil fuels, but also because it is based on extraction and consumption of natural resources. Everything we have, make and use come from the Earth: the minerals in our cell phones, the fibers in our clothing, the food we eat and all the other products we use. In the current economy, the more we consume, the more economic growth there is. That is seen as a good thing, but unfortunately, there are real limits to what the Earth can provide, and we have gone beyond those limits.

Host 2: The third level of transition brings up the question of a Just Transition. How can a Green Economy be fairer and more inclusive than the

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

current economy? How can it provide opportunities for youth, women and others who have been excluded from participating in the current economy? How can a Green Economy give people decent jobs and a safe, healthy environment?

Host 1: Deep stuff and a lot to think about!

Host 2: We spoke to [name of person that did audio-profile], working in [xxx] for [number of years] to understand his experience, his personal journey with understanding what the green economy is.

[PLAY AUDIO-PROFILE]

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

Host 1: A Green Economy calls for a new approach to design, so that the things we use and consume require less energy and materials to make, last longer, and are reused or recycled at the end of their life instead of thrown away.

Host 2: Yes, it's about thinking and doing things differently but that can be hard to imagine even.

Host 1: Yes, "The World Bank has estimated that for every job lost in Mpumalanga's coal sector, 2 or 3 new jobs will be created in the Green Economy. This sound like good news, but hard to believe in something you can't imagine, see or touch. For many the green economy is not really real yet.

Host 2: Considering all the challenges faced by the community of eMalahleni in the transition away from coal. We asked [name of person that did audio-commentary + short intro to who he/she is] what is this green economy? How can our listeners wrap their minds around why the transition towards a green economy is important and how to become part of it and grow with it?

[PLAY AUDIO -COMMENTARY]

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

Host 1: I heard \$100 trillion will need to be invested in low carbon infrastructure globally by 2030, as part of a just transition, which is equivalent to about a year of global GDP.

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW

Host 1: Yes, it's a strange thing, on one hand it feels it is not changing fast enough and much more commitment and finance is needed. On the other hand it feel like it is changing too fast and we strill wrapping our heads around it. How do you feel about it? Send us your thoughts [share ways in which they can comment and participate in the show]

Host 2: We asked some of these question to [name of person that did interview + introduction to who they are].

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

Host 1: [Comments on the audio-profile to provide closure and transition]

Host 2: Let's hear from our listeners now... [share ways in which they can comment and participate in the show]

[OPEN LINES FOR LISTENERS WEEDBACK]
[Show clock]

**The Just Energy Transition
Radio and Podcast
Production Toolkit
2024**

