



Press release - FINAL

## **Global energy supply crisis calls for renewed efficiency**

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has sparked fears of a global energy supply crisis affecting electricity and fuel security. As the world's third largest oil producer, uncertainty around oil supply from Russia has sent the oil price soaring.

Meanwhile countries in Europe are scrambling to reduce their reliance on Russian gas, thrusting energy efficiency into the spotlight where it belongs. Energy efficiency will become the single most effective tool to remedy high demand and low capacity, or supply.

According to Barry Bredenkamp, General Manager for Energy Efficiency & Corporate Communications at the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), owing to the massive infrastructure drives and unavoidable time frames required to ramp up local energy capacity, countries are once again waking up to the need to take demand off the power grid and are calling on businesses and the public to prioritise energy efficiency.

"This will improve energy security while saving consumers and businesses on energy costs in the wake of growing economic uncertainty, rising oil prices and other inflationary pressures weighing consumers down," says Bredenkamp.

With winter approaching and demand expected to rise significantly for heating, Eskom is beginning to feel the pinch of rising diesel prices amidst a constrained global oil supply. The costs of soaring diesel prices will inevitably be passed down to consumers further down the line.

"By taking demand off the national grid and Eskom, electricity users can potentially lessen the chances of load-shedding and give the power utility room to continue critical maintenance on its power plants, whilst reducing the need to use diesel turbines when units trip," says Bredenkamp.

SANEDI, which is mandated to promote and advance energy efficiency – has numerous tips and methods for both commercial and residential consumers on its [website](#). SANEDI translates its mandate into projects that incentivise and support energy efficiency through tax and projects like the [Bridging Information Gap Of Energy Efficiency In Buildings initiative](#) (Bigeo).

Mid-month fuel data released by the Central Energy Fund (CEF), has projected that fuel prices could reach R24.00/l for petrol and R23.60 for diesel. If the estimations bear fruit, South Africa will see the highest fuel price in history this winter.

At the same time, climate change will not pause as energy security takes precedence over sustainability. While countries mull over delaying the transition away from coal and other fossil fuels, energy efficiency (which reduces consumption) will continue to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gas emissions accelerating global warming.

Efficiency measures have been proven to be one of the least cost interventions against climate change, with multiple benefits for consumers.

South Africa's first *Energy Efficiency Strategy* was published in 2014 to enhance energy efficiency practices and regulations across energy consuming sectors of the economy. The strategy recognises the economic benefits of improving energy efficiency which have been well documented since the first Oil Crisis in the early 1970's. This occurred again in 1993 when the oil crisis thrust energy efficiency again under the spotlight, as a mechanism to offset constrained oil supply as tensions rose between the United States and Iran.

Since then critical partnerships like those between SANEDI and Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program (CLASP) have worked to implement new or revised energy efficiency policies related to the consumer label, quality and performance standards as well as to promote energy efficient household appliances and commercial equipment. [CLASP](#) is an NGO that focuses on appliance and equipment energy performance and quality, to mitigate and adapt to climate change and expand access to clean energy.

**Ends.**

### **About SANEDI:**

The South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), established by the Government, directs, monitors, and conducts applied energy research to develop innovative, integrated solutions to catalyse growth and prosperity in the green economy. It drives scientific evidence-driven ventures that contribute to youth empowerment, gender equity, environmental sustainability, and the 4th Industrial Revolution, within the National Development Plan (NDP), through consultative, sustainable energy projects. For more information, go to [www.sanedi.org.za](http://www.sanedi.org.za).

### **Issued on behalf of SANEDI by One Union:**

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**Notes to the editor:**

Please click [here](#) to access the useful energy tips to improve energy efficiency in your home or business:

- Use appliances carrying the Energy Efficiency label.
- Replace regular light globes with energy saving lamps. They use about 25% of the energy and last 6 to 8 times longer.
- New LED lights are even better than compact fluorescents
- Insulate roofs, windows and doors to keep houses cooler in summer and warmer in winter. This can be done by using the latest materials at relatively high cost or simply by using newspaper to seal gaps.
- Take advantage of sunlight where possible
- Only boil as much water as you need when making a hot drink – kettles use lots of power.
- Swap older top-loading washing machines for more efficient front loaders which require less water to function. An energy efficient washing machine can make a 30% energy saving and are very effective at lower temperatures. Using a 40°C wash cycle rather than 60°C equates to a 30% electricity saving.
- If you have the means, buy an A-rated energy-efficient fridge-freezer. It could save you up to 33% on your annual electricity bill. New, energy-efficient refrigerators use half the energy of standard fridges from the early 1990s.
- Turn equipment off when it is not in use - even machines on standby use up to 30 watts of electricity.