



Press Release

09 December 2020

Immediate Release

---

## **SANEDI to implement SA energy efficiency standards to rid country of inefficient electrical appliances**

Household appliances are responsible for a significant percentage of residential power usage, and as South Africa is still heavily reliant on coal-fired power stations, this usage results in increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In a bid to combat this, the ‘Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling’ Programme places energy labels on appliances that provide consumers with accurate and comparable information on their energy efficiency performance.

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), has mandated the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), as an agency of the DMRE, through a formal Memorandum of Understanding, to continue with the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this programme. However, the DMRE will continue to play an oversight and policy role in expanding this programme, as it is a priority initiative to save electricity, improve lives, and reduce harmful GHG emissions.

“We look forward to continuing the work done to date regarding this initiative. Having first been initiated in 2010, this programme is an important cornerstone of our national energy efficiency and climate change mitigation programme. As the largest producer of GHG emissions on the continent, South Africa’s efforts in reducing our carbon footprint must be prioritised,” says Barry Bredenkamp, General Manager Energy Efficiency & Corporate Communications at SANEDI. For the past three years, the programme has been under the direction of Dr Theo Covary, who was funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the DMRE. SANEDI looks forward to further engagements with Covary as he hands over his role – and knowledge base – to SANEDI’s Ashanti Mogosetsi.

“It has been estimated that by improving the efficiency of appliances, 6 million tons less of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be achieved for the country by 2030,” explains Bredenkamp. “Through the

Energy Efficiency Appliance Standards and Labelling Programme, government hopes to remove inefficient electrical appliances and equipment from the South African market and encourage adoption of energy efficient technologies through the implementation of interventions, strategies and Minimum Energy Performance Standards, (MEPS).”

MEPS is a specification, containing several performance requirements for an energy-consuming device, that effectively limits the maximum amount of energy that may be consumed by a product in performing a specified task. In South Africa, MEPS are made mandatory by the DTIC and are enforced by the National Regulator for Compulsory Standards, (NRCS). The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) is responsible for setting and publishing the standards which manufacturers must meet, by law and all are key partners in this exciting initiative.

The programme was originally jointly funded by the DMRE and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and the first developmental phase of the project was implemented by the DMRE, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, SABS, and the NRCS, together with a range of appliance manufacturers, distributors and retailers in South Africa. Key international organisations such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) in California and CLASP also played a significant role in the development of the programme and will continue to be involved, with CLASP funding the initial salary for the Project Manager, based at SANEDI.

Appliances for which the display and use of the South African Energy Efficiency Label is compulsory, include: washer-dryer combinations; washing machines; tumble dryers; electric ovens; fridge-freezer combinations; freezers; electric water heaters (geysers); fridges; dishwashers; air-conditioners; and TV and audio-visual equipment (these do not need to display a label but must have a standby power usage of less than 1 Watt, and 3 Watts for set top boxes).

Ends 534 words

#### **Follow SANEDI on social media**

Facebook: @sanedi.gov

Twitter: @sanedi.org

LinkedIn: @sanedi.org

#### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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).