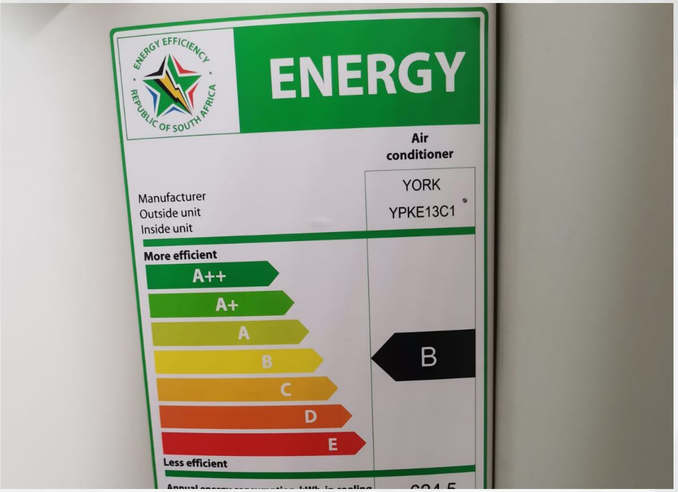
It is clear that regulatory prescriptive measures such as developing standards and labelling of appliances is not the major contributor to reduce energy consumption, but most of the effort is reliant on the energy consumers.

According to the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (2005, page i), "perhaps the most neglected area for implementation is the promotion of public awareness about the costs and benefits of energy efficiency. Major energy savings can only be achieved through changes in people's behaviour, and that depends on informing them about what options exist."



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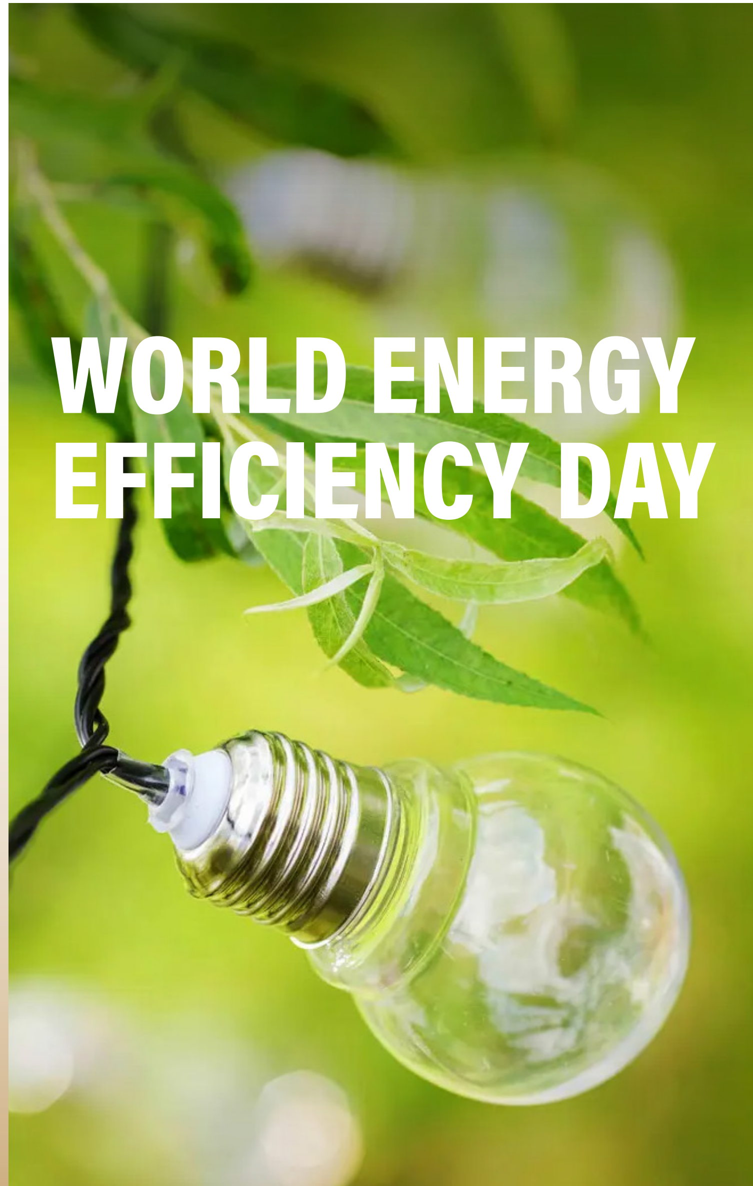

WORLD ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY

Inspiring New Hope

South Africa is among countries that are experiencing an energy shortage crisis, this is evident in the history of load shedding that is induced by high energy demand whereas there is low energy supply. In addition, as a country that is a signatory to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, South Africa is committed to a Just Energy Transition (Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), 2005).

According to the Presidential Climate Change Commission, this transition involves migrating the country from being over reliant on fossil fuels such as coal and oil, to cleaner energy sources such as wind, hydro-power, solar, nuclear and green hydrogen among others. DMRE developed the Energy Efficiency Strategy that provides a blueprint to address high energy demand and climate change crisis in the country (DMRE, 2005; International Renewable Energy Agency, 2019).

The first world energy efficiency meeting took place in Austria in 1998, which at the time received very limited attention from the media houses. Nonetheless, the meeting participants came up with notable resolutions that were subsequently adopted by the global community, this includes the utilisation of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).

There was then a consensus agreement that this significant day be globally commemorated on the 5th of March every year (Austrian Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism, 2019; European Commission, 2025).

There is thus a need for governments, businesses, industries, and communities to integrate energy efficient practices in day-to- day actions. This is vital because climate induced disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation are aided by energy efficient practices and an increased usage of renewable energy sources. It can further ensure ecosystem preservation without jeopardising developmental trajectories (Jaiswal e t a l ., 2022).

Target 7.3 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, advocates for doubling the rate at which energy efficiency is improving globally by the year 2030 (International Renewable Energy Agency, 2019

To achieve this ambitious target, all role players can commit themselves to implement any of the following energy saving practices:

1. Turn off the lights and electrical appliances when they are not being used;

2. Set electronic devices such as desktops andprinters to engage in energy saving mode after a period of inactivity, including turning on “sleep timer” on a tv in case you fall asleep;

3. Invest in buying energy saving lights for your home or business facility. Studies show that energy-efficient lights can conserve energy up to 80%. Also, many modern-day electrical appliances such as fridges, washing machines, and geysers have a sticker that labels how much energy they consume per year according to tests that were run by manufacturers;

4. Visit the website of energy providers such as Eskom to check “peak hours of energy consumption” and avoid using excessive energy during such times. For instance, Eskom encourages the consumers to limit energy use in the morning peak between 6:00am to 09:00am and evening peak between 17:00pm and 21:00pm, any changes to peak hours are regularly communicated by the energy supplier;

5. Insulate your house to minimise the need of using electrical heaters and air - conditioners. This can reduce household expenditure caused by electrical cooling and heating appliances;

6. Purchase solar to power up other aspects of your home or business. This can also alleviate the effects of load shedding;

7. For business facilities, invest in motion sensor lighting. If possible, the warehouse design should have roofs with “atrium skylights” to allow the use of natural lights during the day and turn on electrical lights at night or during cloudy days.

8. A number of corporates have started investing in the construction of “green buildings” which are known to be efficient in energy consumption, this not only save their energy consumption costs, but also protects their brand reputation as they report such initiatives on Corporate Social Responsibility reports.