



**EDEN DISTRICT MUNICIPAL CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT 2 – 4TH
FEBRUARY 2009**

**DECLARATION
OF THE EDEN DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO
CLIMATE CHANGE**

We, the leaders and representatives of local government in the Eden region, out of concern of the global environment and an understanding of the critical importance of local action, having gathered here at Mossel Bay during February 2nd – 4th, 2009;

1. **RECOGNISE** that climate change is an urgent, global problem that requires a coordinated, collaborative response to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the benefit of present and future generations;
2. **RECOGNISE** that there is increasing evidence which shows that climate change is occurring in the region and impacting severely on our communities;
3. **RECOGNISE** that climate change will continue to change lives, the environment, the region's economy, the tourism industry and agricultural sector;
4. **RECOGNISE** that decisions will need to be taken across government spheres to address a sustainable way forward to harmonise economic activities, development and the receiving natural environment.
5. **RECOGNISE** the important role of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and other international resolutions made at Rio de Janeiro (1992), Johannesburg (2002), Bali (2007) and Poznan (2008), along with the G8 Plan of Action in the global effort to combat climate change;

6. **RECOGNISE** that there is an urgent need to negotiate a future global strategy to prepare for post-2012, in order to reverse the current rise of CO₂ emissions;
7. **RECOGNISE** that building a low Greenhouse Gas economy involves collaboration by all orders of government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations as well as approaches that address the unique challenges that exist in the Eden District;
8. **RECOGNISE** that reducing greenhouse gas emissions will also reduce other air pollutants and therefore have positive effects on human health.
9. **RECOGNISE** that actions being taken by local government as well as private corporations are already benefiting the environment by reducing emissions, fostering clean and renewable energy development, and bolstering the economy by creating a new marketplace for cutting-edge technologies and green industries;
10. **RECOGNISE** the challenges that climate change poses for residential consumption behaviour, and the relationship between consumption and socio-economic inequality.
11. **RECOGNISE** the need to understand the nuances of likely changes in the Western Cape's climate, the importance of learning from recent crises – such as the droughts and floods – and demonstrated consensus on the need for climate change education at all levels.
12. **RECOGNISE** the need to de-contextualise climate change from development demands. Without an adaptation strategy, climate change could hold development and poverty alleviation back. Poverty and inequality could be exacerbated by efforts to reduce consumption of natural resources.
13. **RECOGNISE** that there exists a lack of awareness about climate change and its impacts, from leaders down.

14. **RECOGNISE** the need to maintain international competitiveness of the agricultural industry.
15. **RECOGNISE** that water and energy emerge as critical areas of concern.
16. **RECOGNISE** the impact of climate change on sectors that create employment and sustainable livelihoods, such as agriculture, fishing and tourism, and the challenges posed to infrastructure, especially housing and transport.
17. **RECOGNISE** the full impact of climate change on human health, marine systems and biodiversity.
18. **RECOGNISE** physical vulnerabilities to climate change: health (e.g. water-borne diseases and malaria), water supply, agriculture, forestry and biodiversity.
19. **RECOGNISE** the economic vulnerabilities to climate change: developing economy, fossil fuel base to economy, coal exports may fall, possible trade restrictions associated with energy intensive goods, financial constraints to obtain better technology.
20. **RECOGNISE** that South Africa's emissions will continue to increase as development is realised.
21. **RECOGNISE** that political leaders and the people of the Western Cape need to make a paradigm shift to long-term planning and integration.
22. **RECOGNISE** that Eden District local government is directly affected by the impacts of climate change and pledge to be at the forefront in taking action on this issue, ***by committing to:***

- a. Set achievable short and long term targets and objectives within our own jurisdictions for overall emission reductions through a range of solutions including, but not limited to:
 - market mechanisms;
 - improved energy efficiency in buildings, consumer equipment and appliances;
 - research and development;
 - new industrial processes and technologies;
 - sustainable mobility;
 - sustainable agriculture and forestry including maintaining healthy biological sinks;
 - improved waste management;
 - and the use and promotion of cleaner and greener forms of energy.
- b. Pursue the development, exchange, and implementation of best practices and strategies on emission reductions and emerging green industries as part of a sustainable development approach.
- c. Develop and share communications and educational strategies that increase public awareness of climate change issues and solutions, in order to engage citizens directly in actions that bring about change.
- d. Work collaboratively with other jurisdictions to commercialise more broadly clean technologies that will be needed to bring about greater emission reductions.
- e. Implement procurement policies within our own government operations that encourage and create greater demand for the uptake of climate-friendly technologies and thereby influence the marketplace.
- f. Develop, implement, and share strategies to enhance adaptive capacity and knowledge to enable sectors and communities to respond to issues related to the changing climate.
- g. Promote existing and new partnerships on climate change to implement these measures.

- h. Accelerate the implementation of the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol;
- i. Mainstream climate change issues in the municipalities' Integrated Development Plans and programmes;
- j. Advocate for regulatory and policy framework refinements relating to issues of migration and urbanization;
- k. Develop a local climate change response plan, with targets and time-frames.
- l. This will include measures relating to reduction of greenhouse gasses (GHG's), by means of energy efficiency, travel and transportation, water resource management, waste generation, management and disposal, building management, procurement of goods and services, and improved public awareness;
- m. Build stakeholder capacity by intensified awareness campaigns and educational programmes;
- n. Report on an on-going basis on programme implementation detailing targets achieved, actions taken and further actions required; and
- o. Mainstream social cohesion strategies in all municipal programmes and ensure that marginalized groups and communities such as migrants, the elderly, the disabled, women and children are effectively protected and integrated into all our developmental programmes.

23. **BY ENDORSING** the declaration, we demonstrate that Eden District Municipality has an important role to play in addressing climate change with efforts that build our economy and provide our citizens and future generations with a clean and healthy environment.

Signatories

Eden District Municipality: Executive Mayor Mr. Laws

George Municipality: Executive Mayor Mr. De Swart

Knysna Municipality: Executive Mayor Ms. E. Bouw-Spies

Bitou Municipality: Executive Mayor L. Mvimbi

Mossel Bay Municipality: Executive Mayor Ms. M. Ferreira

Hessequa Municipality: Executive Mayor C. Taute

Oudsthoorn Municipality: Executive Mayor Ms. D. De Jager

Kannaland Municipality: Executive Mayor Mr. N. Valentyn
