

South Africa Energy-Efficient Zone PASSPORT



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Johannesburg



Cape Town



Durban



Dear Visitor

Welcome to South Africa's proudly Energy-Efficient Zone (EE-zone).

As hospitable South Africans we do not like to keep our visitors in the dark. We therefore invite you to read through our **enlightening** suggestions, and then to join us on an energy-efficient journey during your stay in our beautiful city and province.



MM WELCOME

Freedom of the Province

The Energy-Efficiency Officer of South Africa requests all whom it may concern to allow the bearer of this document to pass freely without hindrance, and to afford the bearer all necessary assistance and support in his or her efforts to conserve energy.

Energy-Efficiency Officer

2010-06-24

Date

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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Becoming Power Alert

- The larger metropolitan area is currently experiencing an energy supply challenge, but with true South African team spirit and ingenuity we have introduced, amongst other measures, a real-time information schedule with updates on the energy situation and active participation tips so as to avoid power supply interruptions.
- As a visitor to the EE-zone, you have become a member of the Energy Efficiency team and therefore need this important Power Alert information.
- Every evening the three SABC television channels and the eTV channel, will broadcast Power Alert information (see graphic on page 7).
- The state of the electricity network will be indicated as either green, orange, red or black, each requiring specific actions from consumers. Here's what you need to know and do:
 - **Green** – there is limited strain on the electricity supply, therefore you can keep on doing what you are doing. However, you still need to switch off lights in unoccupied rooms and consume energy wisely.

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- **Orange** – the electricity supply system is under some strain, and residential consumers are prompted to switch off non-essential loads such as tumble dryers, washing machines, dishwashers and pool pumps. As a visitor, you can contribute by switching off unnecessary lights and air-conditioning in your hotel room.
- **Red** – the electricity network is under increasing strain, and possible supply interruptions are imminent. Residential consumers are urged to switch off additional appliances such as stoves, microwaves, geysers and kettles. Once again, unnecessary lights are a good place to start, followed by the space heater or air-

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conditioner in your room. If you are working, it is a good idea to save your work and switch to battery power setting.

- **Black** – the electricity supply system is under significant strain, and load shedding (power failure) is in progress. Residential consumers are prompted to switch off everything that is not absolutely essential, including geysers, except for the minimum lighting required for the room they are in and their television set (which they need to receive further information). The same goes for our visitors. Please switch off all electrical appliances, except the television set.
- As soon as the system status changes, another Power Alert message will be broadcast, informing you of further action.

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Saving tips for business and leisure trips

Whether you are a professional visiting South Africa to conduct business, or are lucky enough to be here on holiday, your arrival in the EE-zone means that you are now a member of the Energy Efficiency team.

Below is your guide on how to engage in **power** play the energy-efficient way.

When staying in a hotel or guest house:

If you are staying in a hotel or guesthouse, these tips will turn your room into an EE-zone:

- Switch off unnecessary lights, e.g. the bathroom light when you are in the bedroom.
- Don't fill up the kettle if you only need hot water for one cup.
- If you need to fill the kettle or to wash your hands, use the cold water tap. Opening the hot water tap activates the geyser, which is a giant electricity guzzler.
- If you leave the room for supper or a meeting, switch off the heater/fan/air conditioning, television and lights.
- Only plug battery chargers, i.e. for your cellphone or laptop, into the wall socket if you need to change the

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battery. A battery charger draws electricity even when it has no appliance attached to it.

- When using your laptop, don't leave it switched on when you are not working on it.
- Don't leave the television on if you are not watching it, i.e. when you leave the room or take a shower. And don't fall asleep with it still on!
- Take a shower instead of a bath. Not only will you use less water, but you will also use less electricity to warm the water.
- If you don't need your towels to be replaced every day, inform the staff. This will save water and electricity in the laundry room.

When staying with family or friends:

If you are fortunate enough to be staying with family or friends, help your hosts to save electricity.

- Switch lights off when you leave rooms.
- Take a quick shower, and let small children bath together to save water and electricity.
- If you have laundry that needs to be done, make sure it is a full load before running the washing machine





and try to run it before 18:00 or after 21:00. If at all possible, dry the washing outside instead of in the tumble dryer.

- Gather round a cozy fireplace instead of a heater for those late night conversations over a bottle of our fine red wine.
- Surprise your hosts with a braai, saving them the effort of slaving away in front of a hot stove.

At times even our best efforts are not enough and the power supply is interrupted. South Africans are familiar with the drill, but as a visitor you might not know exactly what to do. Being prepared is always the best policy, and although we don't like to contemplate hours without electricity, your comfort can be greatly enhanced by a bit of forward planning.

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Safety tips during a power interruption

Before a power outage

- Make sure that your cellphone's battery is fully charged at all times. Not only is this a good idea regardless of the circumstances, but when landline telecommunications are interrupted due to power outages, you will need your cellphone to reach the outside world.
- Adequate fuel in your vehicle is another precaution, given that pumps at petrol stations cannot be operated during power outages.
- The same goes for ATM's, therefore some cash stored in a safe place is a good idea.
- Make sure you have a torch, with fresh batteries, with you and keep it somewhere where it can be easily found in the dark.

During an outage

- During power interruptions, the single most important safety tip to adhere to is to treat all electrical outlets as live. Do not assume that because the lights are out and appliances not working, that

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power sockets can be played with. Not only may there be residual current left, but should the power return unexpectedly, the consequences could be dire.

- Make sure that all lights and appliances are switched off and, where applicable, unplugged. Not only will this avoid a cacophony of sound and light when the power returns, but it will also protect your appliances against possible power surges while supply is being restored. It is wise, though, to leave a single light switch in the “on” position to alert you when the power returns.
- Refrain from opening the refrigerator door during a power outage as this will allow the cold air to escape. By keeping the door closed, a power outage of up to four hours will not cause the food and drinks to spoil in the fridge.

After the outage

- Once the power had been restored, do not switch all the appliances on at once as the power supply might still be slightly unstable. Only switch on those you need immediately.
- Remember to reset electronic clocks, especially your bedside alarm, and other timers that could have been disturbed.



Environmental benefits of energy efficiency

As you will discover during your stay in our country, South Africa has an abundant diversity of fauna and flora which attracts just below 10 million foreign tourists each year. To ensure the conservation of our breathtaking scenery and endemic populations of wild animals, we need our visitors to enjoy themselves in an environmentally-friendly way.

Energy and water in South Africa are scarce, and wasteful use of either means that we need to tap even deeper into the environs we are trying to protect in order to provide an adequate supply of both.

Did you know that every kWh (unit) of electricity saved results in a saving of 0,56 kg of coal and 1,5ℓ of water, and that it reduces CO2 emission with 1,03 kg?

Thus, using electricity wisely has a significant impact on our country and will reduce your carbon footprint.



Take the message home and become an ambassador for energy efficiency.

When it is time for you to leave South Africa and return home, we urge you to take the energy efficiency message with you, and to become an ambassador in word and deed. The conservation of electricity, and indeed all forms of energy, is not only an issue relevant to South Africa at this specific time. Our world can only be sustained if we take better care of it, and conserving the limited energy resources available to us is a critically important way for us to ensure that the generations to come will also enjoy quality of life.

Bon voyage, Ambassador!

For more information on electricity conservation and energy efficiency:

- Eskom Call Centre (08600 37566)
- Eskom web site: www.eskom.co.za/dsm
- Power Alert web site: www.poweralert.co.za

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Govt contact details go here