



Southern African Power Pool

SAPP Sustainability Bulletin

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Message from the Desk of the SAPP Environmental Sub-Committee (ESC).

“Welcome to the Earth Hour – Join Millions of People Across the World who will switch lights off for an hour on March, 2014 at 08:30 pm to 09:30 pm to raise awareness for the planet”

The SAPP Sustainability Bulletin for March, 2014(22nd Edition) focuses on the Earth Hour which aims to encourage an interconnected global community to share the opportunities and challenges of creating a sustainable world.



**USE YOUR POWER- MAKE A PROMISE
(DIFFERENCE)-YOU CAN BE A SUPERHERO!**

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The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) kindly sends an invitation to our holistic consumers (supply to our people with reasonable utilization of natural resources and with less effect on the SAPP members) to join the millions of people, millions of homes and millions of businesses around the world that will be in the dark on the 29th March

2014 between 08.30pm and 09.30pm as part of **Earth Hour**, an annual event meant to raise awareness about climate change and the environment. From the Environmental Sub-committee, we fully commit and agree that this initiative is consistent with the provision of reliable and economical electricity the environment. This is a key mandate of the organization.

The Earth Hour is a World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) initiative started in Sydney, Australia in 2007 when 2.2 million households turned off their lights for one hour to make a stand against climate change. Growing participation in Earth Hour globally has shown that there is an impetus for individuals to take action through better choices for the planet, thus making a collective impact.

SAPP PROMISE

Since joining such a global force SAPP seeks to progressively participate and guide members on creative activities to make such an initiative a success locally-“Think Globally, Act Locally”. Earth Hour is about so much more than switching off lights for an hour once a year. It is an opportunity to be part of a global movement of positive change for the planet. Beyond the symbolic hour of darkness, WWF’s Earth Hour is a powerful and progressive movement of positive action for the environment. At least over 10% energy-saving must be made on this memorable hour.

WHEN IS EARTH HOUR?

This year’s campaign culminates on **Saturday, 29 March 2014 at 8.30pm** when SAPP joins others around the world – individuals and organisations – in turning off the lights for an hour as an act of symbolic unity. It is a time to reflect on, renew and celebrate your commitments to protecting our planet beyond the hour.

WHAT IS THIS YEAR’S CAMPAIGN ABOUT?

Centred on a powerful call to action – How do you honour the Earth? -SAPP is asking everyone to make a promise to honour the Earth and making a difference by thinking about the choices we make around our energy use – and understanding our wider impact on the environment. We want people to share these promises with the local power utilities and experience the journey as the virtual planet goes from degraded to beautiful!

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL THAT MAKE?

Growing participation in Earth Hour globally has shown that there is an impetus for individuals to take action through better choices for the planet, thus making a collective impact. The power of choice is in our hands through our everyday commitments and consumer selection. Together we can leave a legacy of flourishing ecosystems, healthy rivers, and abundant flora and wildlife.

WHAT TO DO-LIST OF ACTIVITIES TO COMMEMORATE THE EARTH HOUR

From the previous events SAPP has effectively participated on this initiative but also learnt on areas on improvement to arrive at desired and significant outcome. 2014, we are geared up with a number of activities;

1. *Affiliating with the national climate change authorities, key stakeholders and government to commemorate the Earth Hour:*

It should be noted that most of the member countries have national climate change portfolio which has a mandate to action out activities towards climate change management. Utilities will combine resources with such portfolio to create the necessary public awareness. Government ministries must be encouraged to fully participate in this event. This is why there should be formation of multi-stakeholder committee to commemorate this day. Such include (not limited):

KEY STAKEHOLDER	RESPONSIBILITY
Power utility representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To drive and coordinate the pre-events activities and report on achieved results, • To organize the commemoration event and prepare a programme of key note speakers from central government, • To market the event internally and externally
Print media representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create public awareness
Television media representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create public awareness
Audio media representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create public awareness
National Climate Change Authority rep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage state ownership of the initiative
Consumer association representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To drive the event with understanding of general consumers considerations • To promote local ownership of the initiative
Environmental non-government organization rep: e.g. students association and other grassroots forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote sustainability and local ownership of the initiative
Meteorology representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create public awareness during daily weather update prior to the event

2. *Set a target of more than 10% energy saving during this hour*

SAPP has a target of 10%, all power utilities should be able to meet at least above that for this target to be realized. This means utilities must know the normal demand at the time of the event. Such normal demand is established from looking at about the previous year's trends, monthly trends, 2 weeks before data, and week before data average respectively. On the day, look at usage intervals in comparison to your established normal demand. Information on this usage will be then evaluated against the known trends and coverage.

3. *Education for internal employees and contractors*

While we know that this is a public centred event, close or internal employees or contractors are essential in this initiative.

Educating them will quicken other awareness initiatives since they will be exemplary leaders.

4. Set up a memorable event for this day

For example: Swaziland Electricity Company normally hosts a national event which is open to the public. Incentives for such successful initiatives are given.



MESSAGE:

Earth Hour on Saturday 29 March 2014 is a moment of symbolic unity in honour of the Earth. As power utilities, we must take the time to reflect on our actions and express our commitments to protecting the planet beyond the hour. So **USE YOUR POWER- MAKE A DIFFERENCE- YOU CAN BE A SUPERHERO!!!**

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