



PRESENTATION TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

4 MARCH 2011



| Issue | comment |
|---|---|
| <p><i>5.4 Energy</i></p> | <p>The Green Paper lacks sufficient detail and clarity on impact of the transition to a low-carbon economy on the poor. Internalising environmental costs will result in the increase in energy prices, which usually impacts negatively on the poor. The document should emphasise the provision and access to affordable and safe energy.</p> |
| <p><i>6. Roles and responsibilities</i></p> | <p>All spheres of government have a role to play in responding to the climate change challenge. A national policy should help guide different roles. As previously indicated, local government is committed to working with other spheres of government in responding to climate change challenges. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities would make it much easier to set goals and objectives for each sphere of government.</p> |



| Issue | Comment |
|-------|--|
| | <p><i>These include among others:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>National Government:</u>• Provide toolkits for local government planning• Provide support to local government, including capacity development.• Developing sectoral plans and guiding implementation of such plans• Coordination of climate change response across municipalities by creating a portal for climate change best practise and challenges• etc |



Issue

Comment

Local Government

The municipal sphere of government, at the service delivery frontline has a particularly important role to play in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation plans, including undertaking vulnerability and risk assessments in their areas; actively promote renewable energy and energy efficiency; integrating climate change across all service areas; promoting climate change objectives through local structures; etc.



| Issue | Comment |
|-----------------------|--|
| <i>6.1 Government</i> | It should be recognised that effective public consultation takes time and should be viewed as a necessary investment and the proposed review and alignment time frames will not allow for that. While setting firm time frames is laudable, it is important that they are realistic to allow for thorough stakeholder consultations. SALGA suggests that the proposed time frames (review-2012 & alignment-2013) be revised. |



| Issue | Comment |
|---|---|
| <p><i>8. Inputs and Resource Mobilisation</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An important step in enhancing capacity to respond effectively to climate change issues, will be a detailed and clear analysis of available and required capacity-for all spheres of government. This should also include budgets which is the main instrument through which government plans are implemented, and presents opportunities to integrate climate change into resource allocations and programme/project implementations. • Setting up a national Adaptation fund and ensuring that there are effective mechanisms to channel this to the local level. • Doing a fiscal review to ensure that current financing of local government caters for any expanded mandate arising from climate response. |



Policy Vision - not outlined in the document and therefore not able to understand the type of climate future South Africa will advance. It is important that the vision be clearly spelled out taking into account the SA reality.



SALGA
South African Local Government Association



Thank you