

Strategies and solutions for alternative energy supply in smart cities

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It is a well-known fact that the world's energy reserves are limited and the current state of traditional energy is questionable. In an effort to alleviate pressure on our current energy sources, alternative methods of generating energy have been explored. Sun for instance is a natural resource we can benefit from, but we are not as good at converting such a precious source into something useful at a reasonable cost. Where does this put us? Will we run out of energy in the next couple of years?

John Thorby from Eskom will discuss energy supply in smart cities at the Smart Cities Summit in Johannesburg on 30 and 31 October 2012. John specialise in Integrated Demand Management at Eskom which focus on managing the use of electricity. As citizens we expect to have the convenience of electricity at our fingertips, therefore it is crucial to promote energy efficiency in South Africa, as it:

- Reduces the demand on the current electricity network.
- Delay the need for additional power stations to be built to meet demand for power.
- Keeps electricity costs down.
- Creates opportunities for introduction of the creation and funding of incentives for projects and products.

As part of the Smart Cities Summit speakers and delegates will discuss what role citizens and our energy consumption will play in the move towards creating smarter cities. According to statistics, South Africa produces 45% of all Africa's electricity, however most of this energy is still coal-generated. As energy supply in South Africa is in high demand, the Smart Cities Summit will discuss problems and solutions to the alarming topics such as energy consumption and sustainability, as well as environmental sustainability.

The Summit will provide those attending a clear and practical idea of the world we are to live in. Reality sinks in when we are informed that world population is most likely to rise to 9 billion by 2050, meaning in 20 years 60% of the human population will live in urban areas. In such a situation we need a strategy to stay ahead of problems that might arise, especially energy-related problems. This calls for unity among citizens to work together for a better living and future for the generations to come.

The ball is in our court to take action. Be part of the Smart Cities Summit and play a role in the innovation that is required for the move towards smarter cities. Join us on 30 and 31 October 2012 in Johannesburg at the second Smart Cities Summit. For more information please visit www.smartcities-africa.co.za or to book your seat please contact Haley Fletcher on haley.fletcher@topco.co.za or 086 000 9590.

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