

South Africa's Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy: The Role of Cooperatives

Andrew Emmanuel Okem

*University of KwaZulu-Natal, School of Built Environment and Development Studies,
Durban 4001, South Africa
E-mail: <andokem@gmail.com>*

KEYWORDS Cooperatives. Economy. Energy. Low-Carbon. Transition

ABSTRACT The South African energy sector has been plagued by incessant power outages in recent years due to decreasing energy generating capacity, increased population and economic growth, political interference with the country's energy provider, and a lack of maintenance of aging energy infrastructure. Economists are unanimous that incidences of load shedding have resulted in a loss of billions of Rands in revenue. Using a desktop review, this paper examines the potential roles of cooperatives in South Africa's budding clean energy sector. The paper argues that although cooperatives can potentially contribute to the country's clean energy transition, challenges such as policy constraints, access to finance, dearth of technical skills as well as poor understanding of the cooperative movements are barriers to cooperatives' involvement in South Africa's low-carbon future. The paper argues that these barriers must be addressed in order to unlock the contributions of cooperatives to the country's clean energy transitions.