

Just Energy Transition (JET)

Introduction



The JET journey is not only about repowering infrastructure; it's about repowering Eskom from within. This update shares key developments, successes, and challenges and invites every Eskom staff member to be part of the transformation.

JET Status



- The commercial processes for the construction of the 72 MW PV plant and the 150MWx4 hours storage Battery Energy Storage System at Komati are advanced with construction to commence later this year. Wind was removed from the plan due to environmental sensitivities and Transmission servitude encroachment.
- The Komati Information Centre, which now employs two community members on a full time basis, continues to serve as an active walk-in centre for community engagements, and training.
- The JET strategies for Camden, Grootvlei and Hendrina power stations are approved and project development for repowering and repurposing those stations is underway. The strategies for Kriel and Arnot are going through the engagement and finalisation process.
- Appointing a consultant to scope Biogas potential in Mpumalanga is at an advanced stage. This is funded through a KfW grant and will help clarify how sustainable energy solutions could be implemented in the province, and integrate with other strategic initiatives e.g. Alien Invasive Species removal and climate smart agricultural initiatives.
- The Komati team together with EAL completed the establishment of a fully-fledged and accredited welding training centre, and a solar PV lab for mounting and installation training. Combined with the other training centres at Komati, technical and soft skills training has been provided to 353 employees and 326 community members to date.



Graduates from the Alien Invasive Species Removal Programme

JET Lowlights and Lessons Learned



- The construction of the Grootvlei climate-smart horticulture centre, which began in November 2024, was delayed due to Local Business Fora stopping construction and heavy rains at the site. We have successfully engaged the fora with support from Provincial and Local Government, and construction has commenced. Such engagements are now part of all processes.
- A key element of the Just Energy Transition is economic diversification through reindustrialisation. Various RFIs were issued to invite businesses to setup operations at Komati. These include waste tyre recycling, PPE manufacturing and distribution, steel component fabrication, cooling tower repurposing, copper beneficiation, and transformer manufacturing. Surprisingly, there were very few responses despite the opportunities that would arise. We will continue to work with local communities to identify additional opportunities for economic growth and development. Communication channels for RFIs are being expanded, and insights into RFI and RFPs are refining what we ask for in responses.
- During the development of the wind farm at Komati, environmental sensitivities and encroachment on Transmission servitudes prompted a significant reduction in the number of wind turbines at the site, and the eventual removal of wind as an option for Komati. The repowering capacities are therefore lower than initially anticipated, and studies are underway to understand how additional capacity could be added to Komati.
- Although the assembly lines for the manufacture of containerised microgrids have been established at Komati, we did not manufacture the quantities needed to ensure sustainable operations. This is due to various reasons including challenges in securing a suitable order book. We are working on this with various stakeholders and will be back on track soon.

Upcoming Developments – get involved!



- The training of 15 agricultural entrepreneurs at Komati (funded by ESDEF) will commence soon. An additional 30 local community members funded by the Mining Qualifications Authority in collaboration with the AgriSETA will commence training on the agrivoltaics and aquaponics plant at Komati.
- We are exploring options at Grootvlei to establish a brick-making facility using ash from the station. Hendrina and Camden will follow shortly thereafter.
- We are working closely with the National Business Initiative to scope the training centre at Grootvlei. KfW has already committed grant funding towards this initiative.
- We have secured grant funding and approvals from KfW for additional technical support to the JET office and will be going to market for the following services:
 - » Stakeholders, employees and local community engagements on the Just Energy Transition at Arnot, Hendrina, Camden and Kriel Coal Power Plants.
 - » Study to inform the viability of training centres, to ensure their sustainability.
 - » Economic diversification through agriculture, as identified in the socio-economic assessment.
- Together with the Implementation Agent for Komati, the following priority repurposing projects at Komati for FY26 have been agreed: copper recycling; PPE manufacturing; Steel component fabrication; waste tyre processing; mycoHab mushroom project; and alien Invasive Species Removal.

JET is not a top-down transition, it's powered by YOU. From training centres to new repurposing projects, there are multiple touchpoints where Eskom employees can lead, support, and co-create impact.

Do you have any ideas for repowering and repurposing efforts? Do you believe you could contribute to the Just Energy Transition in Eskom? Share your ideas with us and get involved in the transition. Send us an e-mail: JET@eskom.co.za

