

NEWSFLASH

Our future now!

#CANCELCOAL OUR FUTURE NOW

Leading the Charge to End New Coal for our Just Future

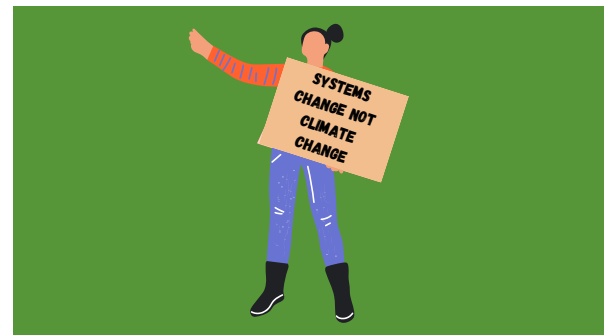


WELCOME

Welcome to the #CancelCoal Newsflash where you can keep in the loop with the latest developments in our fight against new coal power in South Africa. With each issue, we'll bring you updates on our landmark legal case, the latest news updates related to the just energy transition from around the world as well as sharing events and a platform for activists to share their hopes and imaginations for a fairer future. We hope you enjoy the read!

LATEST NEWS INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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NEWSFLASH

CLIMATE COMMISSION SCOLDS ENERGY MINISTRY'S PLAN TO TACKLE POWER SUPPLY IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's Presidential Climate Commission criticises the energy ministry's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), calling it inadequate and in conflict with climate laws and international agreements. The IRP, open for public comments, is scrutinised for its reliance on coal, the world's 15th-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs). The commission contends that the plan lacks a short-term strategy for energy security and neglects climate change and air quality issues. Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe's preference for coal clashes with the commission's push for a green transition. The criticism compounds concerns about the IRP's ambition, impact on inequality, and failure to address energy access and load shedding. [MORE HERE](#)

WORRIES OVER SOUTH AFRICA'S R200 BILLION ENERGY DEAL

South Africa's \$11 billion Just Energy Transition (JET) Partnership, funded by several developed nations to support the transition to renewable energy, faces criticism for lack of transparency and questionable allocations. The JET Implementation Plan reveals that \$1.8 billion has already been spent on 145 projects, with concerns raised about selection criteria and transparency. Just Share's Executive Director, Tracey Davies, emphasized the absence of a public application process and questioned the allocation of funds to private sector entities and controversial projects. Despite the initial challenges, the JET Project has the opportunity to gain credibility by ensuring transparency in selection processes and providing regular public feedback on project outcomes. [MORE HERE](#)

THE ELECTRICITY MINISTER'S PLAN TO ADD 2,335MW TO THE GRID IN SOUTH AFRICA

Minister Kgosisentsho Ramokgopa, responsible for Electricity in the Presidency, outlines the South African government's plan to swiftly expand transmission lines in the Cape provinces, potentially adding 2,335MW of energy to the grid. While renewable energy projects are generating power, the lack of transmission lines hampers their contribution. The short-term strategy involves unlocking 2,300MW from existing projects in Upington through targeted interventions. Ramokgopa emphasizes the need for bespoke financing solutions to address transmission issues. In the long term, South Africa plans to build 14,000 km of new transmission lines to connect renewable energy sources and enhance grid stability. The minister also notes the growing interest in rooftop solar, with installed capacity reaching 4,412MW by mid-2023, driven by tax incentives and financial support. The government aims to localize solar panel production and recruit 25,000 people to address equipment availability and installation skill challenges. [MORE HERE](#)

EMBEDDING ESG IN MINING

The Investing in African Mining Indaba highlighted the mining industry's increasing focus on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks, moving from risk mitigation to value creation. SRK Consulting's Sabine Anderson noted the transformation in business models, emphasizing mutual prosperity for stakeholders. ESG considerations are integrated into core pillars and strategies, with companies making public ESG commitments. Stakeholders prioritize ESG, technical due diligence, and standards compliance. Mining companies innovate to optimize mine plans, reduce carbon emissions, and align with decarbonization goals. SRK Consulting emphasizes ESG integration from the early stages of mineral project development, integrating risks, opportunities, and transparent carbon reduction plans.

[MORE HERE](#)

THE ENERGY TRANSITION CAN BE FAIR, JUST AND INCLUSIVE – BUT THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY IS CLOSING FAST

Experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stress the urgent need to shift from fossil fuels to renewables. However, the transition requires substantial energy investments, impacting net energy available to society. A recent paper by 22 international authors urges a greater consideration of net energy to shape inclusive transition pathways prioritizing global communities. The net energy approach reveals a narrowing window of opportunity for a global transition, influenced by upper and lower limits. Delayed action risks compromising low-carbon transitions, especially for developing countries facing equity concerns. To enhance justice, developed countries must support developing nations financially and technologically, promote energy efficiency, and reduce unnecessary energy use. The research emphasises demand reduction for sustainability and equitable societies, proposing measures to improve net energy consideration in climate models. [MORE HERE](#)

ENERGY TURMOIL' LOOMS UNLESS DEMAND IS CHECKED, SAYS COP28 PRESIDENT

Sultan Al Jaber, president of last year's COP28 summit, emphasizes the need to address the growing demand for power to avoid "energy turmoil" during the transition to clean energy. Al Jaber urges governments to be "honest and transparent" about the costs and trade-offs involved in the transition. He emphasizes the importance of tackling both the supply and demand sides of the energy equation, calling for "massive investment" in zero-carbon alternatives and new grid infrastructure. Al Jaber's comments highlight the challenge of reducing global energy demand, with ExxonMobil predicting a 15% increase by 2050. He urges nations to turn agreements into action and update climate plans to meet ambitious goals. [MORE HERE](#)

ART OF THE WEEK

By Margot Maritz



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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT ON: MARGOT MARITZ

Founder and creator of Green-Humanity, Margot was a member of Greenpeace, a MobStir in the Youth Division of The Ian Somerhalder Foundation and was the first Youth Ambassador for Kids are Heroes, and supported Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. Her flag design for Saving the Arctic is hanging (with some others') at the North Pole, planted by Greenpeace Activists. Since then she has developed a love for environmentalism, photography and filmmaking. Margot has received multiple film and photography awards. Since a very young age, Margot has been interested in environmental issues and has been involved with organisations fighting for less destruction of the planet. She has a non-profit called Green Humanity that educates people about the consequences and realities of environmental issues. Margot also enjoys filmmaking, and the creativity to tell a story that has the power to influence people. Combining these two main interests seemed like the creation of a perfect match. Her work is all about capturing the big and smallest animals and other beauties nature has to offer. Her work has a story to tell and they hope others get to hear those stories and make our world a better, more loving place.

Q&A

How do you believe art can contribute to positive social change?

Art is very inspirational and evokes emotion. This element is a key part of creating environmental and ethical awareness that can prompt perspective changes and encourage sustainable action and activism.

Are there any specific social or environmental issues that you are particularly passionate about addressing through your art?

I focus mainly on conservation and sustainability. With my wildlife/nature photography, I aspire to create environmental awareness and promote conservational behaviours. I think when people see the beauty of our planet they will think twice before acting wasteful and destructive. Together with this I have a passion for storytelling and aspire to educate filmmakers to create eco-conscious productions and include environmental and climate storytelling. This will help reach a more global audience and I hope that audiences will become educated on these issues.

What message are you trying to share with the piece of art you've shared with us?

I am trying to share the message of biocentric and ethical values. Biocentrism is the notion that humans should live with nature rather than being against nature. We need the planet and through my art, I hope to spread this message of respect, sustainability and conservation.

Where can people follow you and/or see more of your work online?

My wildlife photography/videography Instagram - @thecapturesofgreenhumanity

Additionally, if you like to learn about sustainability in film and are a film lover, you can follow me - @margot_greenhumanity

