



Energy storage policy updates cape town

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The City of Cape Town has announced that all solar PV and/or battery storage applications will be viewed as grid-tied systems, which means that all systems need a City-approved inverter and official sign-off. The mayoral committee member for energy, Beverly van Reenen, says the rule applies from October 2023.

According to Green Building Africa, the authorisation process for embedded generation installations apply to small-scale embedded generation systems (SSEG) with a generation capacity smaller than one mega-volt ampere (MVA).

This also includes EG systems with a generation capacity of more than 1MVA and less than 100MVA in properties located within the City of Cape Town's power supply area. The City released a notice on how to ensure that residents' systems are safe, and how to apply for approval. For more information on the application process, visit capetown.gov.

Cape Town's innovative and diverse energy initiatives have gained global recognition, including a recent visit by the World Bank's Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa to the Steenbras Hydro Pumped Storage Scheme. With plans to boost load-shedding protection and substantial infrastructure investment, the city is setting out on a ten-year journey to create the "City of Hope". The city's power supply diversification initiatives include LPUs curtailment, Embedded IPP renewable energy, and a Dispatchable IPP Programme, among others.

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Councillor Beverley van Reenen, the City Mayoral Committee Member for Energy, delineated the city's immediate plans to mitigate load shedding. These plans rest heavily on an assortment of energy sources, including the Steenbras Hydro Pumped Storage Scheme, 500MW of dispatchable energy, and a variety of demand management programs such as Power Heroes and load curtailment.

A brief glance at the city's power supply diversification initiatives showcases a well-rounded strategy. For instance, programs are already in progress for Large Power Users (LPUs) curtailment, Embedded IPP renewable energy, and a Dispatchable IPP Programme. Moreover, a fresh tender has been released for Independent Power Producers (IPP 3), envisaging an aggregated 500 MW of dispatchable and self-dispatchable power capacity.

In addition, the city has rolled out a novel program named Power Heroes. This voluntary campaign for households and small commercial consumers facilitates remote switching of power-intensive appliances such

as geysers and pool pumps.

The city has also effectively executed the Private Small-Scale Embedded Generation (SSEG) mechanism, allowing residential and commercial customers to generate electricity for their consumption and earn credits for surplus production.

One unique facet of the city's power diversification approach is 'wheeling'. This is a City-enabled method that allows third parties to trade electricity using the existing grid infrastructure. This initiative aligns with the city's broader objective of diversifying electricity suppliers to achieve a cost-effective solution.

In summary, the World Bank's visit to the Steenbras Hydro Pumped Storage Scheme symbolizes global acknowledgement of Cape Town's inventive energy solutions. The strengthening bond between the city and the World Bank mirrors a mutual vision of sustainable infrastructure development and resilience. As the city marches forward with the implementation and expansion of its varied energy initiatives, Cape Town's residents can anticipate enhanced energy security and a brighter, more sustainable future.

The Steenbras Hydro Pumped Storage Scheme is a high-tech plant engineered to insulate Cape Town against the repercussions of load shedding. It is a significant energy project and one of Cape Town's most creative and innovative initiatives. The project has proven its capacity by safeguarding city-provided consumers from up to two stages of Eskom's load shedding.

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