

Subject: Regional Coordination of Climate Change Adaptation Efforts

Dear Municipal Colleague,

eThekwini Municipality has recently initiated the process of developing a Climate Change Strategy for Durban that will cover both adaptation and mitigation. In addition, eThekwini Municipality is the current secretariat of the Durban Adaptation Charter (DAC), which aims to globally raise awareness of the importance of local level climate change adaptation action and promote the implementation of the ten DAC adaptation principles by local and district municipalities (<http://www.durbanadaptationcharter.org/>).

Through the DAC, eThekwini Municipality has had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of other cities around the world and has noted that cities and counties in South East Florida have had considerable success in their efforts as a result of a formal adaptation compact between the cities and counties, called the SE Florida Regional Climate Compact. This compact has helped the cities synergise their efforts, learn from each other and jointly improve their access to funding.

With this in mind, the Environmental Planning and Climate Protection Department (EPCPD) of eThekwini Municipality is inviting all neighbouring municipalities to attend a workshop that will provide an opportunity for adjacent municipalities to discuss adopting a common approach to affect a successful regional climate change adaptation response. The workshop will be used to explore the possibility of developing a similar regional partnership as the SE Florida Climate Compact within Central KwaZulu-Natal. We have procured the services of Urban Earth to assist us in organising the workshop and their contact persons will be Ms Margaret McKenzie and Ms Amanda Botes.

The details of the workshop are:

Date: Friday, 28th February 2014

Time: 9:00am to 12:30pm (followed by lunch)

Venue: Victoria Country Club, Peter Brown Drive, Montrose, Pietermaritzburg

RSVP: Margaret McKenzie on margaret@urbanearth.co.za or Amanda Botes on amanda@urbanearth.co.za

Directions to the venue: Travel on the N3 highway alongside Pietermaritzburg towards Howick. Go past the Church Street offramp and take the next offramp (Sanctuary/Armitage Road). From there it is clearly signposted to the Victoria Country Club.

Agenda:

- 09:00am – 09:30am **Welcome Tea**
- 09:30am – 09:40am **Welcome and Introductions:** Sean O'Donoghue
- 09:40am – 10:30am **Informal overview of current climate change adaptation efforts of municipalities present:** This will be an informal session that will provide the municipalities present an opportunity to briefly explain: the institutional responsibility for adaptation in their municipality, any climate change strategies that have been developed or are in the process of development and any adaptation projects that may have been initiated.
- 10:30am – 11:00am **Tea**
- 11:00am – 11:30am **Introduction to the Durban Adaptation Charter and experiences in establishing the SE Florida Regional Climate Compact:** Sean O'Donoghue
- 11:30am – 12:20pm **Discussion on key questions:**
- 1) What are the specific common points of interest between the municipalities?
 - 2) Would a regional climate change partnership be of assistance in addressing these common points of interest?
 - 3) If a partnership is beneficial how should it be structured and how often should meetings take place?
- 12:20pm – 12:30pm **Closure**
- 12:30pm – 13:30pm **Networking Lunch**

We look forward to your participation in the workshop and the opportunity to better synergise our climate change adaptation efforts with your municipality. If you have any specific queries or questions about the workshop please feel free to contact Sean O'Donoghue, Manager: Climate Protection Branch, EPCPD, eThekweni Municipality tel: 031 3224304, email: Sean.O'Donoghue@durban.gov.za

Yours sincerely

Sean O'Donoghue
Manager: Climate Protection Branch, EPCPD