



SALGA Municipal Sustainability Portfolio National Water Week

15 to 22 MARCH 2021



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National Water Week is an annual event that focuses public attention on the importance of water, one of South Africa's most limited resources. It raises awareness on the use, management, conservation and protection of water resources. The Department of Water and Sanitation will join the rest of the world in the commemoration of the World Water Day (WWD) under the 2021 theme, "Valuing Water". To further heighten the awareness of this important day, the Department together with its sector partners, will embark on a week-long commemorative educational activities dubbed, National Water Week from 15 – 22 March. The World Water Day is a United Nations initiative with an aim to bring focus on the importance of fresh water and to raise awareness of the billions of people living without access to clean and safe water. This day is about taking action to decisively deal with water challenges facing the globe.

This year's theme aims to understand whether people are valuing water in their lives and advocates for behavioral change in the manner in which people consume water. The 2021 WWD comes during a challenging period as the globe is still struggling with the novel coronavirus pandemic. Water is at the centre of the fight against this pandemic as the World Health Organization has consistently advocated for the washing of hands regularly with a soap as the most effective way of preventing the spread.

Water is the catalyst in eradicating poverty, economic growth, creating employment opportunities, fighting global pandemics, therefore it needs to be valued and behavioral change is needed to stop water wastage and vandalism of water infrastructure. The National Week will be commemorated from 15th to 22nd March 2021, as part of National Water Month celebrations under this year's campaign theme of "Valuing Water".

To commemorate this week, SALGA's Municipal Sustainability Portfolio (MSP) will be embarking on a social media campaign that will highlight the following:

- The current water crisis and the creative and innovative ways municipalities are addressing the droughts and lack of access to clean water.
- Multiple water-use systems: a key to reducing climate vulnerability
- Water-Energy-Food Nexus: the benefits of a circular water economy.
- The role of municipalities in protecting rivers as fresh water sources and curbing river pollution.

Key Activities For The National Water Week

- ❖ On the 16th March 2021 – MSP will conduct an online interview (to be shared with municipalities, on SALGA social media and website) with Ms. Nozi Molteno, Environmental Manager, Waterberg District Municipality (WDM) to share with the following:
 - How WDM is managing biodiversity and wetlands in particular through multi-disciplinary platforms and stakeholder partnerships.
 - Reflection on the work they have done in implementing their climate change strategy and/or the wetlands strategy and action plan; how has the district come to understand climate change risks, particularly those in the water sector.

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- Good practices and experience on biodiversity management and protection and the benefits of multi-stakeholder platforms for municipal service delivery.
 - WDM is known to experience both droughts and flooding in relatively short spaces of time or as events that follow one another closely, and Nozi will share how the district and its locals have been prepared for these events recurring in future.
 - Nozi will share key messages with other municipalities and stakeholders about wetlands, biodiversity and water security.
- ❖ Portfolio Head-Municipal Sustainability, Dorah Marema will participate in the Session: “Global Goals, Local Actions”, at the 7th Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue – a German Renewable Energy Federation, Energiewende – towards climate neutrality online and virtual conference on the 17th March 2021, 09:30 to 10:15 CET. Stream: energydialogue.berlin or <https://2021.energydialogue.berlin/>

Session Description:

- ❖ In 2015, the Agenda 2030 was adopted by 193 Member States of the United Nations. It sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a transition towards less inequity, less poverty and more solutions to tackle climate change. The SDGs consist of 169 concrete targets to be carried out effectively by 2030. But how are these global goals concretely translated into local action. This session will present successful initiatives all over the world which have taken upon themselves to implement the global goals.
- ❖ On the 18th March 2021 – MSP will conduct an online interview (to be shared on SALGA social media and website) with Councilor Alderman Xanthea Limberg, Mayoral Committee Member for Water and Waste at the City of Cape Town to share with the following:
 - Lessons learned from City of Cape Town’s droughts and how the city has transformed water management in these changing climatic conditions.
 - How the city managed the drought and strategies it used to bring all the residents and stakeholders, etc.
 - How the drought transformed the way that the city is dealing with water and sanitation issues currently.

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- How has the City come to understand climate change risks, particularly those in the water sector?
 - Key messages to other cities and municipalities and stakeholders on issues of climate change and water security.
- ❖ On the 23rd March 2021 – MSP will host a National Water Day Information Sharing Session on Local Government Water Crisis in a Warming Climate- Creative and Innovative ways municipalities are addressing the droughts and lack of access to clean water.

Session Description:

Climate change is already a measurable reality posing significant social, economic and environmental risks and challenges globally. Water is the primary medium through which the impacts of climate change are being felt in South Africa according to the National Water Resource Strategy (Department of Water Affairs, 2013). Increases in climate variability and climatic extremes are impacting both water quality and availability through changes in rainfall patterns, with more-intense storms, floods and droughts; changes in soil moisture and runoff; and the effects of increasing evaporation and changing temperatures on aquatic systems. South Africa has been experiencing a serious drought since 2015, with associated crop losses, water restrictions, and impacts on food and water security.

According to the World Weather Attribution Group <https://www.worldweatherattribution.org> climate change tripled likelihood of drought that pushed Cape Town water crisis to 'Day Zero' brink. This group's report, all the climate models used in their study show the likelihood of droughts that goes back to 2015, and will increase with further global warming. As a result, it's important for municipalities to improve resilience to drought.

To commemorate the National Water Day, SALGA Municipal Sustainability Portfolio will be hosting a best practice information sharing session which will include inputs from SALGA-Trading Services; Waterberg District Municipality; City of Cape Town; Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries- Climate Change Adaptation Unit; South African Weather Services; and University of Cape Town- Climate System Analysis Group)

The details are as follows:

DATE: 23rd March 2021

Venue: Virtual –MS Teams (Click here to join the meeting)

Time: 14h00 – 17h00RSVP to Lungisile Mthethwa on lmthethwa@salga.org.za by Friday the 19th March 2021.



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