SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Municipal Energy Efficiency

Overview

Municipalities consume 2-4% of the total city's energy consumption, for use in their buildings and facilities, particularly in water and wastewater plants and for public lighting. Therefore, municipalities have the potential to make a significant impact in reducing energy demand and carbon emissions – while at the same saving costs and enhancing financial sustainability. Energy management is crucial in implementing energy efficiency as it looks at energy consumption in a systematic manner.

Tackling the Challenge

SEA, in partnership with GIZ-SAGEN, supported the rollout of Municipal Energy Management Systems (MEMS) across South Africa, aligning with the national Energy Efficiency Demand and Side Management programme.

A key achievement was developing a tool to help municipalities establish energy baselines for buildings and facilities, enabling targeted efficiency improvements. The initiative strengthened municipal capacity through training, technical support, and peer learning on institutionalising MEMS, data collection and management, and Energy Performance Certificates.

While municipalities have started to develop energy baselines, challenges persist around data collection and sharing. Looking ahead, IT solutions—including smart meters, AI systems, and expanded training—offer strong potential for scaling and impact.

Capacity Development

3 Cities

Johannesburg, Cape Town & eThekwini: Energy Efficiency Institutional Leaders.

3%

baseline data shows that, on average, municipalities consume 2-3% of the City's electricity.

36%

of women were trainees

For more information: ***https://memsresources.org.za/***

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