



The GreenHouse People's Environmental Center, South Africa




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INFORSE Side Event:
Sustainable Energy for Development to
Reduce Poverty
NGO Experiences
9th December, 2009
13.00-14.30, Grey Room, DGI-Byen
Klimaforum'09, Copenhagen

http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf09_COP15.htm



The Site



LOCATION OF THE GREENHOUSE PEOPLE'S ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE
IN THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF JOUBERT PARK, JOHANNESBURG INNER CITY



The GHP Vision

To contribute to the **transformation of** Johannesburg City and the surrounds into a "Green" city by inspiring local people towards **sustainable living practices**.

Our Mission

To work with community based initiatives that are responding to sustainability challenges confronting communities in and around the city.

Sustainability challenges

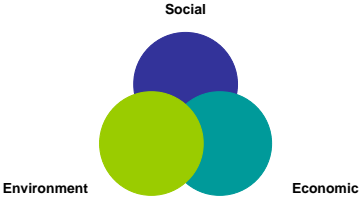


Diagram illustrating the intersection of Social, Environment, and Economic factors.

Delivering on our mission

1. By providing working demonstrations of sustainable living practices and showcasing technologies that complement them.
2. By supporting community based organisations that are working to improve the quality of life in the city and surrounding areas.
3. By disseminating information that enables individuals and groups to improve the quality of life in the city and their communities.



Principles

- Doing more with less
- Sharing resources
- Addressing causes of problems rather than the symptoms
- Emphasizing the empowerment of the marginalized and disadvantaged
- Striving for the use of the environmentally friendly technologies
- Promoting, supporting and lobbying for open access to information
- Transparency and accountability
- Encouraging spiritual and personal growth that frees human potential

Demonstration and support

- Permaculture landscaping and organic gardening
- Materials reclamation for reuse, recycling and composting
- Grey water treatment, rainwater harvesting and water efficiency
- Renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency
- Green architecture and design

A potting shed turned office



Lessons learnt from our work

- Supporting individual and group initiatives is important to sustain the existence of community
- Creativity is key to getting the message across and sustaining work in the grassroots
- Practical work is the best form of learning and sharing information
- Community based demonstration centres have the power to inspire change
- Always respect the limitations of other organisations
- Government is an even changing chameleon

Sustainable Energy for Development to Reduce Poverty
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People's Climate Forum: Klimaforum'09
NGO Side Event to UNFCCC COP15, Copenhagen



INFORSE
International Network for Sustainable Energy

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