



## The GreenHouse People's Environmental Center, South Africa



INFORSE-AFRICA



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INFORSE-WECF Side Event of  
 UNFCCC COP15, Copenhagen:  
 200 NGOs in Action in Asia & Africa for  
 Sustainable Energy

Monday, 14 December, 2009,  
 16:30 - 18:00  
 Bella Center, Niels Bohr Room

The Side Event organized by  
 International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)  
 Women in Europe for Common Future (WECF)  
 Read more on INFORSE's participation at UNFCCC COP15:  
[http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf09\\_COP15.htm](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



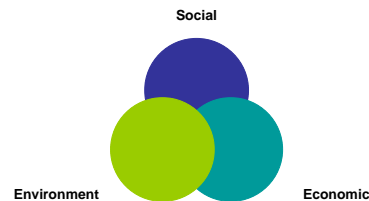
## The GHP Vision

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



## 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.



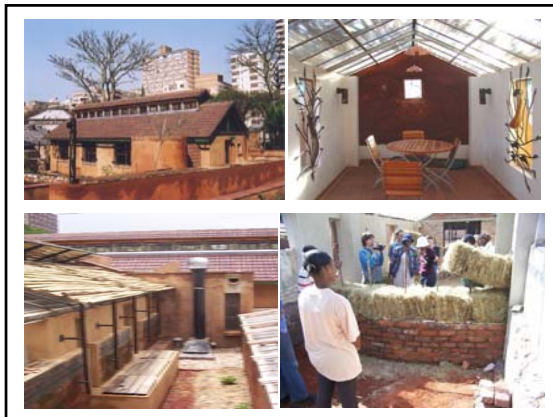
## Principles

- 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

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**INFORSE**  
International Network for Sustainable Energy

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Please visit us – we would  
love to show you around!**

<http://www.earthlife.org.za/>  
<http://www.inforse.org/africa/>

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[http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf09\\_COP15.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/conf09_COP15.htm)