

Media release from The South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA)

16 October 2009

***New Energy Efficiency Forum launched to serve commercial property sector***

The South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA), working in collaboration with the South African Council for Shopping Centres (SACSC), Eskom and the City of Cape Town is launching a new Energy Efficiency Forum for commercial property owners and managers on 21 October at the Civic Centre in Cape Town.

This forum is also supported by the Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA), Provincial Government of the Western Cape and Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT).

The Energy Efficiency Forum aims to provide owners and managers of offices, shopping centres, hotels and other commercial and public buildings with practical knowledge on energy efficiency solutions, and will also serve as a platform for collective action and shared learning.

Vuyani Hako, Chairman of the SAPOA Western Cape region says, "Energy efficiency has become increasingly critical in the context of rising electricity tariffs and a medium-term shortage of supply. The economic recession, forthcoming legislation and the need to reduce environmental impact are also important considerations that call for a concerted effort towards finding solutions and working with other commercial property owners to improve energy efficiency."

The formation of the Energy Efficiency Forum follows a recent SAPOA workshop, held in September 2009. This workshop was well attended, with excellent participation from commercial property delegates. And it was here that it was decided that there is a definite need for a regular forum to address energy efficiency issues and provide ongoing education on energy related matters.

Sarah Rushmere, Electricity Efficiency Campaign Manager for City of Cape Town says, "The Launch of the Forum coincides with a cluster of events called Cape Town Green Week. The City joins hands with the Green Building Council of SA second annual convention and exhibition, the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and a range of partner organizations for a week of events from 19-23 October 2009.

The Forum promises an information-packed and interactive programme. Attendees will hear about the latest update on the electricity supply shortage and progress with the plans for the national Power Conservation Programme by an Eskom representative. Two corporates – each with significant commercial property interests in Cape Town - will also present case studies, and a panel/audience discussion will explore a proposal to establish a local Energy Efficiency Accord for commercial property owner/managers in Cape Town.

In addition, the Electricity Efficiency Forum will provide information regarding energy efficiency products, service providers, training and events.

Property owners and managers who would like to view the full invitation & programme and to register to attend, please open this website link: <http://www.respondnow.co.za/invite.php?event=FNC337> or email Melissa Van Harte: [MVanHarte@omigpi.com](mailto:MVanHarte@omigpi.com)

For further information please contact Sarah Rushmere-Electricity Efficiency Campaign Manager City of Cape Town on Tel (021) 487-2785

**~Ends~**

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