

EnergyDRIVE 2021



On 1 September 2021, the EnergyDRIVE truck departed from its home base at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) for a three-week tour, visiting schools and wind farms in eight different communities in the Eastern, Western and Northern Cape to raise awareness about renewable energy.

The much-loved yellow 'edu-tainer' is a collaborative project between DUT and the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA), the first tour having taken place in 2017. For the 2021 tour – the third – the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI) joined as a partner.

The truck features a solar roof structure, biogas digester, photovoltaic panel display unit as well as a solar hot water display unit. A battery bank, photovoltaic components and a TV and display cupboards are built into the container walls, providing a variety of interactive

demonstration models. Apart from informing learners about renewable energy technologies, the EnergyDRIVE team cover issues associated with climate change as well as potential career opportunities within the renewable energy sector.

At the first stop on the tour, at the Dorper Wind Farm situated 14 km south-east of Molteno in the Eastern Cape, the EnergyDRIVE team engaged with learners from Molteno's Joe Slovo Freedom High School. The final stop was the Kangnas Wind Farm in the Springbok area of the Northern Cape, with learners from Okiep High School in attendance.

After the tour, the truck was exhibited in Cape Town at WindAc Africa, a conference for the academic community that took place from 5–7 October, as well as the Windaba conference for wind industry representatives from 7–8 October.



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