



Schneider Electric South Africa Sustainability Storybook

September 2017 edition

Life Is On

Schneider
Electric

PREFACE	1
TERMS.....	2
2012 SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC INITIATIVES.....	3
FIRST F'SASEC ESTABLISHED AT VAAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY.....	4
2013 SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC INITIATIVES.....	5
DONATION TO REIGER PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL.....	6
MVEZO MANDELA DAY PROJECT.....	6
MONETARY DONATION TO F'SASEC.....	7
F'SASEC STUDENT TRIP TO FRANCE.....	8
2014 SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC INITIATIVES.....	9
ENVIRONMENT DAY PROJECTS.....	10
AWARD OF ANTI-CORRUPTION COMPLIANCE SYSTEM CERTIFICATION	11
BRIGHTENING THE LIVES OF ZANDSPRUIT RESIDENTS ON MADIBA DAY	12
ALEX CHILD-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVE SOLAR LIGHTING SOLUTION.....	13
MONETARY DONATION TO F'SASEC.....	14
CELEBRATING ARBOR WEEK IN GAUTENG AND MPUMALANGA.....	15
FIRST SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC TEACHERS' MISSIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA	16
2015 SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC INITIATIVES.....	17
BRINGING LIGHT TO THE FORGOTTEN GWAKWANI VILLAGE.....	18
ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ZANDSPRUIT KIDS ON MANDELA DAY.....	19
ENERGY EFFICIENCY DEMONSTRATED AT SUSTAINABILITY WEEK.....	20
EMPOWERING COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF ALEXANDRA.....	21
ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING FOR ZANDSPRUIT RESIDENTS.....	22
TREE DONATION AND PLANTING AT TEMBISA SCHOOL.....	23
ACCESS TO ENERGY FOR KHOMANI SAN.....	24
ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR LEARNERS AT ISIBONISO COMBINED SCHOOL.....	25
MORE SUCCESSFUL TEACHERS' MISSIONS	26
INVESTING IN COMMUNITY TRAINING.....	27
2016 SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC INITIATIVES.....	28
ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING IN CAPE TOWN THROUGH TEMBEKA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRUST.....	29
SUPPORTING ZOE LIFE NGO.....	29
MULTI-PARTY AGREEMENTS SIGNED TO EXPAND F'SASEC TO FOUR MORE INSTITUTIONS	30
ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN GUGULETHU	31
SECOND TRIP TO FRANCE FOR F'SASEC STUDENTS.....	32
PASTORAL CENTRE PRE-SCHOOL AND CRÈCHE GETS MICRO-SOLAR SOLUTION	33
PRODUCT DONATIONS TO SUPPORT UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG'S UPLIFTMENT WORK.....	34
SOLAR LIGHTS DONATION TO F'SASEC	35
FREE ACCESS TO ENERGY TRAINING AT ECA.....	36
F'SASEC HOLDS GRADUATES' CEREMONY	37
WEALTH CREATION FOR GWAKWANI VILLAGE THROUGH PROJECT CONNECT.....	38
STUDENTS RISE TO CHALLENGE IN LOW-TECH INNOVATION COMPETITION.....	39
LIGHT-UP ZANDSPRUIT PROJECT.....	40
SIX MORE SUCCESSFUL TEACHERS' MISSIONS FOR 2016.....	41
COMMUNITY TRAINING ADDS 3223 MORE TRAINEES.....	42
2017 SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC INITIATIVES.....	43
CLOTHES AND STATIONARY FOR SCHOOL GIRL	44
ZANDSPRUIT VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE VOUCHERS.....	45
SUSTAINABILITY AT THE HEART OF OUR BUSINESS	46
CELEBRATING LIFE IS ON AT ISIBONISO PRIMARY SCHOOL.....	47

Preface

At Schneider Electric South Africa, our role is to ensure that Life is On for everyone, everywhere and at every moment. Sustainable development is at the heart of our company strategy and we believe that access to energy is a basic human right. We strive to improve our impact on the planet and focus on ethical and profitable business while having a positive influence on the people that we interact with across all levels of engagement.

We are committed to providing innovative solutions that address the energy paradox: balancing our planet's carbon footprint with the indisputable right of everyone to quality energy. As sustainable innovators, we know that better climate means better economy. We believe we are living in a very exciting time where new technologies enable us to rethink completely the way we deal with energy in a far more sustainable and efficient manner.

We have two key strategic focus areas for sustainable development. Firstly, we focus on creating Access to Education within communities in need of skills development. Secondly, we focus on creating Access to Energy within communities currently living without energy.

Our Access to Education focus speaks to the large need for practical skills development within the field of energy. We have established a network of training centres that offer a very high standard of practical training for electrical artisans, using our advanced range of didactic equipment. This offers a range of training equipment that has been designed specifically for training purposes to ensure a real life simulation of equipment used in industry, within a safe and practical environment. Our Access to Education focus introduces advanced teaching methods to train trainers and establish best practices for the training of electrical artisans.

Our Access to Energy focus introduces a range of innovative and green solutions to provide access to energy within communities currently living without energy or without safe energy. We strive to establish Access to Energy entrepreneurs to promote enterprise development and the establishment of small enterprises, which is crucial to achieve socio-economic development with the high levels of unemployment that are faced in South Africa. The Access to Energy offer uplifts the living conditions and living standards in communities, whilst educating communities on green and safe sources of energy, which reduces the risk of fires within informal settlements.

This storybook provides an overview of all sustainable development projects we have been delivered in South Africa since 2012. The sustainable development projects are aligned to our strategic focus areas for sustainable development as described above. The storybook shares real stories that have improved the living conditions, living standards and levels of education within communities, with a sustainable focus.

Should you wish to gain a better understanding of any of the projects outlined within our storybook, you can contact Zanelle Dalglish, Head of Sustainable Development, Anglophone Africa on zanelle.dalglish@schneider-electric.com or +27 (0) 11 254 6400.

Terms

Schneider Electric Foundation aims to contribute to the development of people and societies through education, innovation, awareness-raising and vocational training related to energy. It acts anywhere in the world where the company is present, through its three programmes - Access to energy through vocational training; Emergency and rebuilding actions; and Sustainable development awareness.

French South African Schneider Electric Education Centre - F'SASEC

Vaal University of Technology - VUT

The In-Diya lighting systems are highly energy-efficient LEDs, especially designed to provide lighting to people living with no or unreliable electricity. Consuming 50% less power than 11W CFL and 90% less power than 60-watt incandescent lamp for the same light output, the wall-mounted unit can illuminate a room of 3.5 x 3.5m for all normal activities.

Mandela International Day - Every year on 18 July — the day Nelson Mandela was born — the UN asks individuals around the world to mark Nelson Mandela International Day by making a difference in their communities.

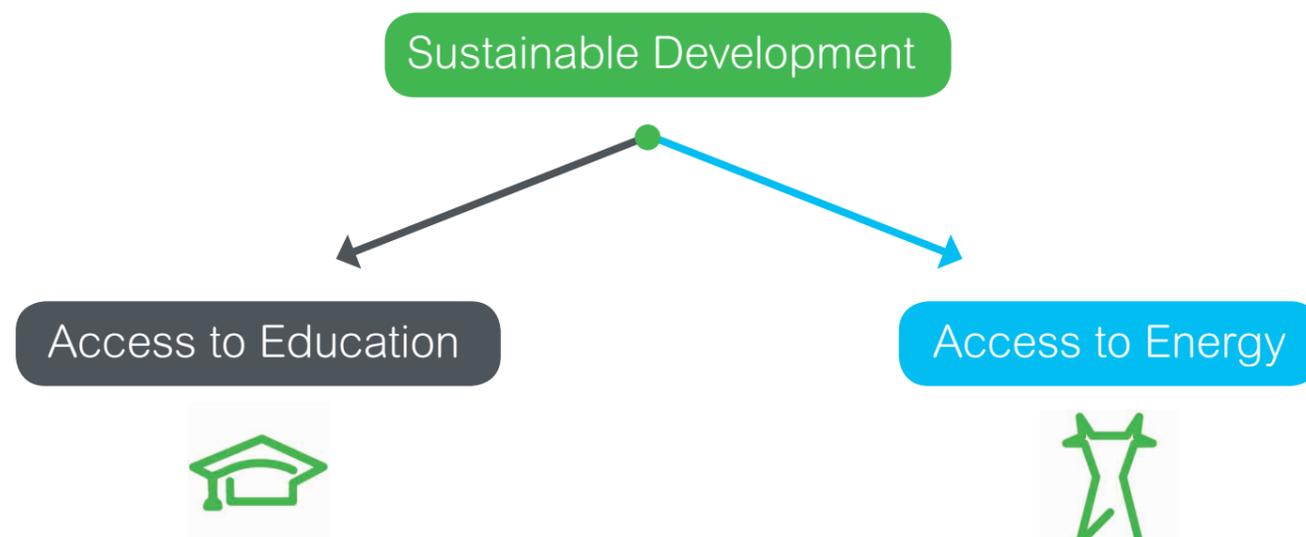
South Africa celebrates Arbor Week annually in the first week of September. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), as the custodian of forestry in South Africa, is responsible for the campaign.

Sustainability Week is regarded as the premier greening event in South Africa with a call to learn sell and network while putting ideas into motion. The week is celebrated annually in the second week of June.

The Schneider Electric Mobiya TS 170S is a portable Solar LED lighting system providing safe, reliable and clean access to energy. With its innovative multiple mounting options, that lamp conveniently lights up your surroundings and charges your mobile phone where ever you are. It can also be charged by a laptop or any device with USB port.

Habitat for Humanity South Africa, part of the international non-profit organisation, strives to break the cycle of poverty through participatory development, advocacy and awareness.

Schneider Electric Teachers (NGO) aims to promote volunteering of its current and retired employees in partner organisations of the Schneider Electric Foundation, dedicated to teaching and professional training within the energy field.



2012 Schneider Electric Initiatives

First F'SASEC established at Vaal University of Technology



Schneider Electric South Africa and the Schneider Electric Foundation collaborated with the French Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research and the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) to launch a training centre aimed at developing programmes to train electrical artisans.

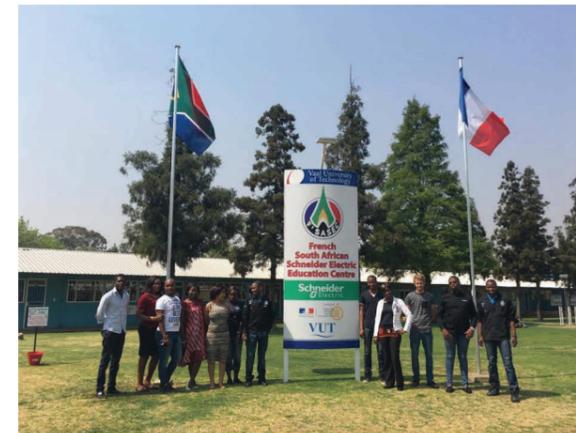
The new facility, the French South African Schneider Electric Education Centre (F'SASEC), is in line with the Department of Higher Education and Training's vision of accelerating artisan training across the country. It will focus on preparing young South Africans from previously disadvantaged social backgrounds for the job market.

"Schneider Electric South Africa is proud to be associated with an initiative of this calibre. We truly believe that the centre will be instrumental in increasing our local skills pool, empowering graduates to start their own businesses and ultimately creating broader employment opportunities," said Carl Kleynhans, Country President of Schneider Electric South Africa at the launch in March 2012. Didactic equipment, valued at approximately R1 million, was donated by the Schneider Electric Foundation during 2012, with support from Schneider Electric South Africa.

F'SASEC at VUT classes are composed of students from disadvantaged social background, usually without Matric, and who are unable to follow a university certificate. There is a specific focus on training female electrical artisans in small classes to ensure dedicated support to all students. Students are trained on very specific electrician technical skills.

Competencies are developed more specifically around home installation, industrial installation and industrial automation. High-level in-service and practical training matches with industry needs, as this training is based on cutting-edge technology and realistic work situations, giving students the best chance to get employment in the electrical engineering field.

From French to entrepreneurship training or engineering sciences to wiring workshops, the students are gaining important knowledge, which will help them to improve their skills. In addition, the facility has well equipped workshops, for wiring and instrumentation as well as classrooms with top technology facilities, including projectors, air conditioner, laptops and Wi-Fi for the students.



The new facility is in line with the Department of Higher Education and Training's vision of accelerating artisan training across the country.





Donation to Reiger Park Secondary School

During the second half of 2013, our employees enthusiastically took part in a winter drive campaign whereby non-perishable food items, clothing and sporting equipment were donated to underprivileged pupils from Reiger Park Secondary School in Boksburg, Gauteng.

The school also received a solar lighting solution from the In-Diya solar lighting range, assisting the school with sustainable green energy for lighting.

It was heart-warming to see Reiger Park Secondary School receive the much-needed donation with thankfulness and the pupils each enjoyed a snack pack on the handover day.



Mvezo Mandela Day Project

On Mandela Day 2013, our company had the great pleasure of bringing access to energy to the off-grid village of Mvezo in the Eastern Cape, the birthplace of Nelson Mandela.

The legend was honoured by the donation and installation of high quality and sustainable solar lighting kits, providing access to energy to this historic community.

2013 Schneider Electric Initiatives

Monetary donation to F'SASEC



Building on the donation of didactic equipment to F'SASEC at VUT in 2012, the Schneider Electric Foundation, with the support of Schneider Electric South Africa, donated more didactic equipment worth approximately R430 000 in August 2013.

This assisted F'SASEC at VUT to raise the level of its electrical training centre to a state-of-the-art training facility.



This donation assisted F'SASEC at VUT to raise the level of its electrical training centre to a state-of-the-art training facility.

F'SASEC student trip to France



We financially supported underprivileged students from F'SASEC at VUT to go on an educational trip to France during October 2013. These students from the townships were introduced to a completely new world in France. They mainly visited Schneider Electric's head office in Paris, gaining first-hand practical experience to complement their electrical studies.



These students from the townships were introduced to a completely new world in France.





Environment Day projects

Employees from the ITB business unit at Schneider Electric South Africa reached out to Siphumelele Children's Home and Mehlaeng Combined Farm School in Kempton Park, Gauteng on Environment Day, 6 June 2014.

Vegetable gardens and fruit trees were planted, as well as solar lights installed in support of the children's home and farm school by the eager ITB team, simultaneously contributing to the good of the planet.

Siphumelele Children's Home is a refuge for abused, abandoned and street children in Kempton Park and surrounding areas, while Mehlaeng Farm School is a needy school situated in a rural area close to Kempton Park and faced with numerous challenges.

2014 Schneider Electric Initiatives



Award of Anti-corruption Compliance System Certification

The Certification Committee of ETHIC Intelligence, a leading international certification agency specialising in anti-corruption compliance programmes, awarded Schneider Electric South Africa an Anti-corruption Compliance System Certification for its programme to prevent corruption during May 2014.

Following an on-site ethics audit in February 2104, by leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company, SGS, at our head office in Midrand, the main conclusions revealed that our compliance policy and governance model is well designed, formulated in a coherent manner and corresponds to international best practices.

The Schneider Electric Responsibility & Ethics Dynamics Programme, a fundamental of the governance model, is in itself proclaimed a best practice. The programme provides a common reference, a connected organisation and shared processes and tools as a support structure for employees to comply with the global organisation's 'Principles of Responsibility'.

These principles are based on the major values to which Schneider Electric worldwide subscribes to including the UN Global Compact, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

According to Eric Léger, Country President for Schneider Electric South Africa, the local governance model is formulated into an all-encompassing governance framework, incorporating both qualitative and quantitative governance. "The model's qualitative governance consists of three main elements: intellectual honesty supported by the King III code on corporate governance, Schneider Electric's Principles of Responsibility (PoRs), and the fundamentals of ethical business practice."

"The company has a zero tolerance approach to unethical behaviour and it views its governance model as a winning approach for improving business conduct, leading to better growth opportunities in Africa and greater employee productivity. So far, it has proven to be invaluable and we are pleased to have now been officially awarded for our efforts. Schneider Electric South Africa insists on the importance of responsibility and its place at the core of our corporate governance."

Brightening the lives of Zandspruit residents on Madiba Day



"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead," said Nelson Mandela.

Our employees took these words to heart when they collaborated with Emthonjeni Community Centres, a community based organisation based in Zandspruit, Johannesburg, to honour the late Mandela's legacy on Madiba Day 2014.

The team literally used their hands to prepare approximately 600 breakfast and lunch meals for the less fortunate children and played fun games. They also contributed a variety of vegetable and herb plants to enlarge the community's existing income generating food gardens.

The overall goal for the day was to make a sustainable impact, therefore nine In-Diya solar lighting systems were also donated. "This year, our focus is education and fostering the future possibilities for children living in this community. Education for these children takes place in containers and so we provided lighting solutions for these classrooms, which tend to be very dark – an obstacle to both teaching and learning," said Zanelle Dalglish, Head of Sustainable Development for Schneider Electric South Africa. Four of these systems were also installed in the rural bakery, which is owned by two women from the community. They were thrilled with the donation.

A further donation was in the form of practical goods to the community's 'swop shop'. Being an extremely poor community, the swop shop exchanges goods for recyclable waste, which residents collect and bring to the shop where it is weighed and valued at R1 per kilogram.

The company and its employees supplied the shop with goods, such as non-perishable foods, blankets, toys and clothing to ensure it is well-stocked and so increase the well-being of residents.

The company also contributed 85 kg of porridge to the existing food programme in the community, called FACT (Feed a Child Today), helping the learners start their day on a full tummy.

Dalglish pointed out, "Importantly, this is not a once-off initiative. We have firm bonds with this community and have a continuous programme to support the people living in this area. By giving our time, skills and resources, and taking part in the food programme going forward, we hope we have made Madiba proud and honoured his legacy."



"Importantly, this is not a once-off initiative." The overall goal for the day was to make a sustainable impact.



Alex child-headed households receive solar lighting solution



Schneider Electric South Africa partnered with Rays of Hope, a non-profit organisation, providing approximately thirty child-headed households in the Johannesburg poor township of Alexandra, with an alternative to using candles and paraffin as a source of light during August 2014.

The donation of high quality solar lamps assisted in reducing dwelling fires for these disadvantaged children living without adults, improved education by providing learners with a source of light to study at night and encouraged small business development.

Representatives from Schneider Electric South Africa were on hand to demonstrate and educate the recipients on solar lights, especially designed to provide lighting to people living with no or unreliable electricity.

In terms of safety and minimise the risk of theft, the company decided not to install solar panels, required to charge solar light batteries, at the child-headed households. As a safe alternative, they donated battery-charging stations, which have been installed at Rays of Hope's facility to charge batteries for the solar lights. Three Schneider Electric battery-charging stations together with solar panels and batteries, as well as hundred In-Diya solar lamps were donated.



Monetary donation to F'SASEC



F'SASEC at VUT received another generous donation from the Schneider Electric Foundation, with the support of Schneider Electric South Africa of approximately R430 000 to acquire more state of the art didactic equipment.

The donation was made during August 2014 to sustain the level of their electrical training centre as a state-of-the-art training facility.



F'SASEC at VUT received approximately R 430,000 to acquire more state of the art didactic equipment.



Celebrating Arbor Week in Gauteng and Mpumalanga



Our employees honoured the country's Arbor Week celebrations on 11 September 2014, by planting indigenous trees at the Zandspruit informal settlement in Honeydew, Gauteng.

The organisation joined hands with Willow Feather Farm, growers of frost hardy indigenous trees and Emthonjeni Community Centres, a non-profit organisation, to donate 50 trees. The team planted 25 of these around a soccer field located in a barren and dusty area of Zandspruit. The other 25 trees were planted at a later stage in Kwaggafontein, a Mpumalanga community that Emthonjeni Community Centres also serves.

"Assisting in greening South Africa, and providing sustainable trees that will add both shade and beautify the area for residents of Zandspruit, has been extremely rewarding," said Zanelle Dalglish, Head of Sustainable Development for Schneider Electric South Africa. "As an organisation that lives, loves and breathes energy efficiency, planting trees to ensure an environmentally secure future is central to our corporate culture. Assisting a community that will greatly benefit from these efforts is priceless."



First Schneider Electric Teachers' Missions in South Africa



Schneider Electric Teachers (NGO), created in 2012 by Schneider Electric and its Foundation, aims to promote volunteering of its current and retired employees in partner organisations of the Schneider Electric Foundation, dedicated to teaching and professional training within the energy field and fuel poverty fields, giving their time and competencies to teaching the less fortunate.

The volunteers fulfil these teachers' missions during their holidays, attesting their personal commitment to sustainable development, in line with Schneider Electric values. These missions are also provided free of charge by the Schneider Electric Foundation, in conjunction with the local Schneider Electric entity.

During 2014, four successful teachers' missions were completed for this first time in South Africa.

Professionals from Schneider Electric France taught at F'SASEC based at VUT, where students from disadvantaged backgrounds received training on variable speed drives, programmable logic control, industrial wiring and in-depth entrepreneurship.

During 2014, four successful teachers' missions were completed for this first time in South Africa.





Bringing light to the forgotten Gwakwani Village

Our company celebrated Mandela Day 2015 by empowering the off-grid, forgotten Gwakwani community in former Venda with rural electrification solutions and entrepreneurial training.

In partnership with the University of Johannesburg (UJ), representatives from both the academic institution and our company travelled to the village of Gwakwani, located in Limpopo Province.

“Together with UJ, we installed solar lighting solutions in 30 homes in the village and also trained entrepreneurs to sell and maintain our solar powered portable LED lamps with mobile phone charger, the Mobyia TS 120S,” said Zanelle Dalglish, Head of Sustainable Development for Schneider Electric South Africa.

She explained that the unit is especially suited for the demanding rural environment of Gwakwani, as it is an energy efficient, eco-friendly and robust portable lamp producing 120-lumen light output. The donation has enabled access to energy, in that the community would no longer need to rely on candles as their primary source of lighting.

“Working in collaboration with UJ is in line with our sustainable development strategy, which focuses on partnering with other businesses, NGOs, NPOs and funders to establish an electrification model for off-grid communities.”

In addition, the company donated food parcels made up of non-perishable goods to the community.

2015 Schneider Electric Initiatives



Access to Education for Zandspruit kids on Mandela Day



The company has continued its ongoing work to uplift the impoverished Zandspruit community, an informal settlement near Johannesburg, on Mandela Day 2015. The focus was education and fostering the future possibilities for children living in this community, with the support of Emthonjeni Community Centres, a NGO working within Zandspruit.

Solar lighting solutions were installed in classrooms at Emthonjeni Community Centre, where young learners from the community are taught. Prior to this installation the classrooms tended to be very dark, an obstacle to both teaching and learning.

Furthermore, our staff learned a lot about the community, as they spent the day engaging with the underprivileged children. The company also contributed 85 kg of porridge to the existing Emthonjeni Community Centres food programme in the community, called FACT (Feed a Child Today), helping the learners start their day on a full tummy.

Zanelle Dalglish, Head of Sustainable Development for Schneider Electric South Africa, said, “We have firm bonds with this community and have a continuous programme to support the people living in this area. By giving our time, skills and resources, and taking part in the food programme going forward, we hope we have made Madiba proud and honoured his legacy.”



Energy efficiency demonstrated at Sustainability Week

Schneider Electric South Africa took part in the annual Sustainability Week, held at the CSIR Intentional Convention Centre (ICC) during July 2015.

“We highlighted in particular its rural electrification products and sustainability solutions for the mining sector and both exhibited and joined in the discussions at the event,” said Zanelle Dalglish, Head of Sustainable Development for Schneider Electric South Africa.

The event is a series of conferences, seminars and workshops focusing on the green economy. It covers a wide range of green issues from green buildings and business to food and water security, waste management and sustainable energy, and brings together inputs from leaders in the public and private sectors.

Dalglish pointed out that the company, which formed part of the event for the second year, witnessed a strong increase in the interest and need for rural electrification solutions by this year’s delegates.

Wilhelm Swart, Vice President for Schneider Electric South Africa’s Mining, Minerals and Metals (MMM) Africa Business, delivered a well-received address at the event and focused his discussion on innovation in energy. The MMM team is responsible for leading Schneider Electric’s mining, metals and mineral solutions throughout the continent.



Empowering community members of Alexandra



Schneider Electric South Africa supports Rays of Hope in Alexandra to accelerate the charity work undertaken by the non-governmental organisation in Alex. Its work is designed to bring hope to many broken homes in the township, and well as child-headed homes torn apart by death of parents because of the HIV/Aids pandemic.

During August 2015, one of our employees trained various people from Alex in entrepreneurial skills. High quality solar Mobiya lamps were also donated to Rays of Hope to support the entrepreneurs to start their own businesses.



High quality solar Mobiya lamps were donated to Rays of Hope to support the entrepreneurs to start their own businesses.

Entrepreneurship training for Zandspruit Residents



The high percentage of unemployment in the deprived Zandspruit informal settlement near Johannesburg made this community the perfect place for Schneider Electric South Africa to deliver its entrepreneurship training during August 2015.

Furthermore, these residents also received some high quality Mobiya solar lamps to start their own businesses, with the support of Emthonjeni Community Centres, a NGO working within the community.



The high percentage of unemployment made this community the perfect place for Schneider Electric South Africa to deliver its entrepreneurship training.

Tree donation and planting at Tembisa school



Our staff gave their time and energy to plant 50 indigenous trees on Arbor Day, September 2015 at the Isekelo Primary School situated in the impoverished community of Tembisa, near Johannesburg in Gauteng

There were almost no trees on the school grounds prior to this donation and the company's employees were honoured to provide much needed shade for their learners and simultaneously contribute to the welfare of the planet.



There were almost no trees on the school grounds prior to this donation.



Access to Energy for Khomani San



The Khomani San community, off grid in the remote part of the Northern Cape, was beyond joy to receive much needed Mobiya solar lights during September 2015 from Schneider Electric South Africa.

The community gave extremely positive feedback on the value that these high quality solar lights brought to the community. Their living conditions were improved, adults were able to earn income through manufacturing of traditional items, such as beadwork, during evenings, it assisted home care of the elderly and sick and schoolchildren were able to learn during evenings.



The community gave extremely positive feedback on the value that these high quality solar lights brought to the community.



Access to Education for learners at Isiboniso Combined School

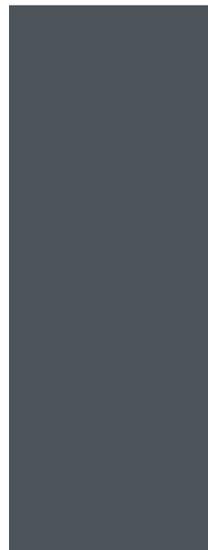


“They have done something big, especially for our kids,” said Mpho Cindi, organiser at Habitat for Humanity South Africa on the project done in partnership with Schneider Electric South Africa.

During November 2015, the company donated two fully furnished and readymade classrooms, solar lights, a solar street light, lunch boxes and T-shirts to Isiboniso Combined School, situated in the poverty-stricken community of Orange Farm near Johannesburg in Gauteng.

Young learners from the school were taught in a small, dark shack not conducive for learning. An incredible difference has been made by the newly donated and fully furnished classrooms, providing a clean, professional and well-lit teaching environment for the kids. The high quality street light was donated to assist the school and surrounding residents with lighting at night, providing access to energy in this off-grid community.

The company was humbled by bringing Access to Education, as well as Access to Energy to this deprived school. The school reported increased number of learners after this initiative and indicated that we have raised the level of education in the area.



“They have done something big, especially for our kids.”

More successful Teachers' Missions



Towards the end of 2015, Schneider Electric employees conducted four more Schneider Electric teachers' missions in their own time for the second consecutive year in South Africa, showing their personal commitment towards sustainable development.

Underprivileged students from F'SASEC at VUT, received first-hand knowledge from professionals based at Schneider Electric Egypt and Schneider Electric South Africa. Courses were presented on programmable logic control, switch-gear, electrical wiring principles and entrepreneurship awareness.



Investing in community training



Schneider Electric South Africa trained 1 930 underprivileged people in the field of energy from January to December 2015.

Energy training to communities is vital to our social impact and our representatives presented training courses on Safe Electricity and Road Safety to pupils and staff from Ekukhanyisweni Primary School in Alexandra near Johannesburg and different types of entrepreneurship courses to various underprivileged communities.

Schneider Electric Teachers presented professional courses at F'SASEC.



Schneider Electric South Africa trained 1 930 underprivileged people in the field of energy from January to December 2015.



2016 Schneider Electric Initiatives



Entrepreneurship Training in Cape Town through Tembeka Business Development Trust



Underprivileged delegates from around Cape Town, identified through the non-profit organisation Tembeka Business Development Trust, received valuable entrepreneurship training through our company during February 2016.

The delegates further received a donation of high quality Mobiya solar lamps to start their own businesses in their communities.

Supporting Zoe Life NGO

The NGO (non-governmental organisation), Zöe-Life, received a donation of high quality Schneider Electric server cabinets at its KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng offices during May and July 2016.

In this way, we supported Zöe-Life's imperative work in underprivileged communities, consisting of approximately 5 500 disadvantaged people, around Johannesburg and Durban. The organisation works in the field of public health and social transformation with children, communities, churches and countries to bring authentic abundance. Its key interventions are KidzAlive, Confident Communicators, HIV I-ACT, nutrition, organisational development and community mobilisation.

Multi-party agreements signed to expand F'SASEC to four more institutions



Following on the success of the first F'SASEC in 2013, which Schneider Electric South Africa inaugurated at VUT in collaboration with Schneider Electric France, The Schneider Electric Foundation and The French Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Research, the company has established four more such centres.

During March 2016, our company signed partnership agreements with Sedibeng TVET College, University of Johannesburg, College of Cape Town and Cape Peninsula University of Technology. The training centres' primary focus will be on the training of future artisans, electricians and technicians in the field of energy.

At the signature ceremony, held at Schneider Electric Midrand in Gauteng, Eric Léger, Country President for Schneider Electric South Africa, said that these agreements formed part of the company's vision to accelerate vocational training in the field of energy across the country for previously disadvantaged students.

The plan is to create a network of many such training centres in Southern Africa and all over the world, as there are in South America, India and Asia.

Once established, each centre will feature our state-of-the-art equipment to enable the skills facilitation and exposure essential to the energy industry. Through intensive vocational training, junior and senior technicians in the relevant disciplines will be taught innovative technologies and internationally recognised competitive learning programmes.



Entrepreneurship programme launched in Gugulethu



Home Innovation Labs, a non-governmental organisation that focuses on community sustainability projects, launched a youth-focused entrepreneurship programme in Gugulethu, outside Cape Town, during May 2016, with support from Schneider Electric South Africa's Access to Energy Programme.

A full-day training workshop was held on entrepreneurship and energy efficiency, which was attended by aspiring entrepreneurs and curious adults from around the area. Mobiya solar lights were also generously donated to the aspiring entrepreneurs.



Second trip to France for F'SASEC students



A new intake of underprivileged students from F'SASEC at the VUT in Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng received a great opportunity to go on an educational trip to France during May 2016, with financial support from our company. This followed a similar successful student trip, which F'SASEC students undertook in 2013.

The disadvantaged students from townships in the Vaal Triangle, Gauteng gained first-hand practical experience to complement their electrical studies, as they mainly visited Schneider Electric's head office in Paris.



Pastoral Centre Pre-School and Crèche gets micro-solar solution



Our company brought light to a crèche surrounded by shacks and the poorest of poor on Mandela Day 2016.

A micro solar solution was installed at the Pastoral Centre Pre-School and Crèche in Kliptown, Soweto near Johannesburg. For the first time, the 150+ kids were provided with light in the classrooms and staff suddenly had the opportunity to store food in a fridge, where as they had to previously buy food each day at a higher cost. Furthermore, staff were provided with the opportunity to add a television and computers to the micro solar system, in order to raise the level of education. Outside the crèche, one of our newly installed streetlights was evident, contributing to safety for staff and after-school kids when they go home during the dark in winter months.

Their thankfulness was evident during the celebrations on the day, as kids danced and the headmaster described to the guests how all the different donations brought long awaited aid. Even something as small as the newly donated name board for the crèche was a requirement by the Department of Education and, unknowingly, Schneider Electric South Africa met a big need.



Product donations to support University of Johannesburg's upliftment work



Schneider Electric South Africa donated Schneider Electric micro-solar products, as well as Schneider Electric server cabinets to University of Johannesburg (UJ) during August 2016, in support of its invaluable work at needy communities in Gauteng and Limpopo.

UJ is a leader in the field of socio-economic upliftment in the education sector, creating sustainable impact in the communities it supports. The work is documented and UJ students compile progress reports on all their projects, in order to determine their impact. Therefore, Schneider Electric South Africa is proud to join UJ and support its sustainable development activities wherever possible.



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Solar lights donation to F'SASEC



Schneider Electric South Africa donated In-Diya solar lights to F'SASEC at VUT in August 2016.

The donation was made to support the state of the art F'SASEC training facility at VUT, during possible electricity power cuts, as well as to provide a practical training opportunity for F'SASEC students to understand the installation of the solar lights.



Free access to energy training at ECA



Schneider Electric South Africa provided monthly training on its access to energy solutions mostly to previously disadvantaged learners from the Electrical Contractors' Association of South Africa (ECA) from September 2014 to September 2016.

The free modules, taught by Schneider Electric's specialists, entail the operation and installation of its renewable energy products, as well as the concepts required to become an entrepreneur.

The ECA's accredited training centres are located across South Africa and provide a wide range of training and skills development courses, aimed at both the technical and business aspects of the electrical contracting industry. ECA has been representing electrical contractors in South Africa for 60 years.

George Senekal, regional training manager at ECA, said, "The training provided by Schneider Electric not only focuses on the normal protective equipment used by electrical contractors. It has taken it a step further by initiating a joint venture training programme with ECA, which exposes our learners throughout the yearly training programme on a topic that is highly important to global energy saving techniques. The specific topic deals with the very basics to solar energy generation principles."

"Only after a session do our candidates have a sound understanding of the meaning of solar energy generation. Our candidates are also clearly informed by the Schneider Electric training staff on how to be a successful entrepreneur in this specific field of solar energy distribution. Both the understanding of current technology as well as future technology, are well presented by their training staff. We look forward to enhancing this initiative to a more advanced and hands-on approach. Our industry is represented by our learners and more specific training techniques will ensure a better knowledge and implementing of renewable energy resources."

F'SASEC holds graduates' ceremony



On 25 October 2016, the Vaal University of Technology held a certificate ceremony for F'SASEC to send off its students officially into the world of work by presenting 16 students with certificates for Electrical Engineering.

As a company, we were extremely proud of this graduation, as F'SASEC at VUT is the first of many of the type of centre we hope to establish in Southern Africa. In March 2016, we signed with four more universities to expand the F'SASEC network in order to accelerate vocational training in the field of energy for previously disadvantaged students.

Graduates' feedback

"We have learned so many skills from our time here at F'SASEC. We now have a strong foundation in electrical knowledge that we can use to get a job, start a business or to continue our studies. With the skills we have now we are closer to getting a trade test in electrical engineering and the qualifications we have now enables some of us to enter university."

"We are all on our way to becoming the best we can become and with no fear of facing our future. Some of us already got a job doing electrical wiring, whilst some are continuing to study more. We feel a difference between ourselves and the people around us because we have unique skills now."



"We feel a difference between ourselves and the people around us because we have unique skills now."

Wealth creation for Gwakwani Village through Project Connect



We partnered with the University of Johannesburg (UJ) on its initiative 'Project Connect' to support the rural and forgotten off-grid Gwakwani Village in Limpopo, situated 618 kilometres from Johannesburg. From this partnership, remarkable sustainable development took place in a couple of areas from July to November 2016.

UJ students are being exposed to the world outside and their immediate surroundings, by connecting them with real-life engineering projects and opportunities, to solve real issues where it is needed most.

A high quality and multifunctional water system was identified, as a core need for the village, as water supplied from a borehole for drip irrigation in the village was insufficient for daily use. A second borehole pump was installed and we assisted to make this a reality by our donation of the 'Water of the Sun' solution. This constituted of Schneider Electric Variable Speed Drives for powering the water pump with a 4Kw solar panel solution.

Now this community not only has access to reliable water supply for everyday use, but can also plant and grow vegetables to support themselves and sell to surrounding villages.

Furthermore, we were highly involved with a solar power solution for a bakery and crèche erected by UJ, contributing to wealth creation and education. The villagers were beyond grateful for these life-changing ventures.



Students rise to challenge in Low-Tech Innovation Competition



On 10 November 2016, a team of three young creative thinkers from F'SASEC at VUT walked away with total prize money of €500 from their participation in our Low-Tech Innovation Competition, held in Midrand.

We held the event in partnership with the Schneider Electric Foundation and Nomade des Mers Expedition.

Low-tech technologies, also known as appropriate or frugal technologies, are simple do it yourself (DIY) systems that meet basic needs such as access to water, energy and food.

Eye Owl Tech team creates LED-light

Aptly named the Eye Owl Tech, the three-member team presented a working prototype of an LED-light called the Flip-Lamp. The easy to use Flip-Lamp utilises gravity to pull a sand bottle with a pulley system inside a PVC pipe to conduct electricity from an old microwave motor and fire up the LED light.

Their innovative low-tech light solution costed the team close to nothing, as 99% of the materials used to produce the Flip-Lamp came from used products that were thrown away – including parts from a microwave that were found in the rubbish bin.

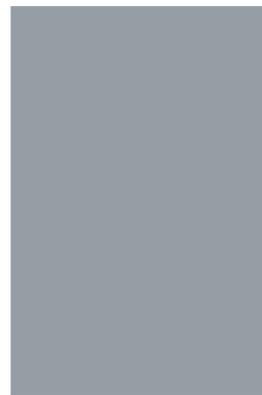
Launched by the Low-Tech Lab, the Nomade des Mers Expedition is a three-year sailing expedition around the world to promote, test and prototype low-tech technologies, as well as to develop the international low-tech stakeholder and user community.

South Africa was one of six countries participating in the 2016 leg of the programme with the entire initiative being documented by a film crew – both on land and across the seas. Other participating countries include Morocco, Senegal, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Brazil.

After being awarded the coveted prize, an ecstatic Luvo Dubula – one of winning students said, “Thanks to Schneider Electric and Nomade des Mers for helping to unlock our potential and push us to think outside the box with this challenge. It is often very easy to go for high-tech options but in a world where we need to think carefully about our impact on the environment – surely low-tech solutions are a viable option.”



“Thanks to Schneider Electric and Nomade des Mers for helping to unlock our potential and push us to think outside the box with this challenge.”



Light-up Zandspruit project



Tuesday 13 December 2016 was an unforgettable day for some Schneider Electric Sustainability Fellows, as they contributed in bringing access to energy to the Zandspruit community suffering from energy poverty, in conjunction with Emthonjeni Community Centres, who has been serving as a NGO in the community since 2002.

The number of households with access to regular power sources was almost non-existing, with only 10% connected to legal electricity. Consequently, fatalities were being experienced due to illegal electricity tapping.

The Schneider Electric Light-up Zandspruit project brought relief to approximately 130 households suffering from energy poverty, touching more than 1 000 lives.

A Schneider Electric Engineer trained some of the community members to do safe and reliable installations, whereafter Schneider Electric technical staff supervised the first five installations, thereafter, these community members did the rest of the installations in the community with their newfound knowledge and skills.

In addition, Schneider Electric generously sponsored uniforms, shoes and stationery for the Emthonjeni Swop Shop. This is a “give and gain” initiative whereby the community of Zandspruit has the opportunity to collect recyclable items such as glass in exchange for much needed items in the shop. This initiative aligns with Schneider Electric’s sustainable development strategy to improve our impact on the planet.

Furthermore, Schneider Electric contributed much needed food items to the Emthonjeni Kitchen, catering on a daily basis to community members in need of nutrition. Emthonjeni Community Centres provides 10,000 free meals on a daily basis in the Johannesburg area.



Six more successful Teachers' Missions for 2016



Towards the end of 2016, a further six professional Schneider Electric Teachers' missions were conducted by our employees in their own time, supporting our sustainable development strategy, with their own personal commitment.

Students from disadvantaged backgrounds at the F'SASEC based at the VUT, received first-hand practical knowledge from professionals based at Schneider Electric France and Schneider Electric South Africa. Courses were presented on programmable logic control (PLC), introduction to PLC, industrial installation – level 1, entrepreneurship awareness and advanced entrepreneurship.



Community training adds 3223 more trainees



Energy training to communities is vital to our social impact and is part of our sustainable development strategy. During 2016, we have trained a further 3 223 underprivileged people in the field of energy, building on the previous year's figure of 1 997 people trained.

Amongst the courses presented by our employees were:

- Basic practical training on In-Diya Solar installation to some Zandspruit community members
- Safe electricity training to pupils from Bongani Primary School in Gugulethu near Cape Town
- Free electricians training to previously disadvantaged individuals in the Free State and North-West
- Safe electricity training to pupils and staff from Masakhane-Tswelolepe Primary School in Zandspruit near Johannesburg
- Safe electricity training to pupils from Skeen Primary School in Alexandra near Sandton
- Workshop on electrical maintenance and electricity saving tips to community members from Orange Farm within the Vaal Triangle in Gauteng
- Entrepreneurship and solution training at the Electrical Contractors Association of South Africa
- Professional training courses presented by Schneider Electric Teachers at the F'SASEC



2017 Schneider Electric Initiatives

Clothes and stationary for school girl



On the evening of 5 January 2017, nine shacks burned down in Zandspruit, a community suffering from energy poverty.

Eleven-year old Hlayisani Moila was devastated, as she lost all her belongings, including much need clothes and stationary to start her new school year.

Through our back to school project at the end of 2016, the NGO serving in the community - Emthonjeni Community Centres was able to come to the rescue of Hlayisani. She was overjoyed when she received brand new school clothes, shoes and stationary.

The company did not know that this donation would reach so far and was privileged to make a difference in a time of need.

The company did not know that this donation would reach so far.



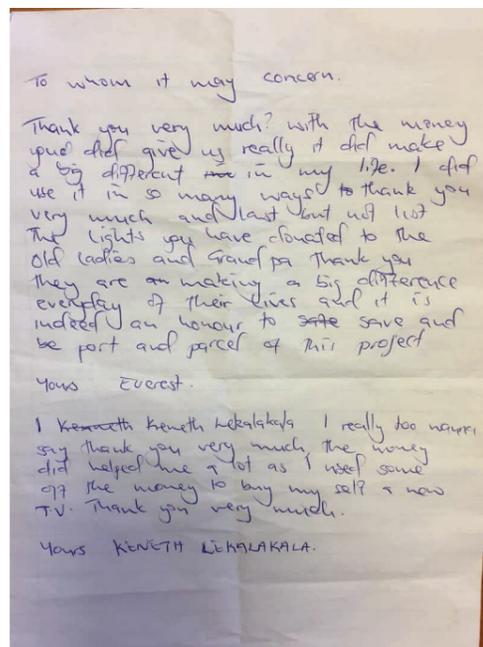
Zandspruit volunteers receive vouchers



Building on the successful Light-up Zandspruit project which brought solar lighting relief to approximately 130 households suffering from energy poverty, we compensated volunteers from the community who assisted with the solar light installations at the start of 2017.

These community members were trained to do safe and reliable installations, whereafter Schneider Electric technical staff supervised the first five installations, thereafter, these community members did the rest of the installations in the community with their newfound knowledge and skills.

It was a joyful day indeed when these volunteers from this poor community each received a R3,000 Makro voucher to buy much needed items.



We compensated volunteers from the community.

Sustainability at the heart of our business



Our Sustainability Fellows celebrated Environment Day at Alexandra on 5 June 2017, providing access to green energy for orphaned and vulnerable children who form part of the Rays of Hope outreach program, called Ithemba Labantwana.

We donated 40 high-quality solar Mobiya lights, to be used by children on the Ithemba Labantwana program, together with four Mobiya charging stations to be kept at the Rays of Hope Homework Club.

Rays of Hope is a non-profit organisation working already for more than two decades in the heart of Alexandra township on different programs. Their Ithemba Labantwana program currently supports 30 child-headed households and a foster village.

In terms of safety and minimise the risk of theft, the company decided not to give the solar panels to the kids, but to rather build Mobiya charging stations with solar panels to be kept at the Rays of Hope Homework Club. The kids can now safely charge their Mobiya lights while doing homework at Rays of Hope. These Mobiya Charging stations were made of recycled and re-purposed wooden pallets obtained from our distribution center, contributing to the good and preservation of the planet. This type of Mobiya Charging Station is the first of its type and can possibly be used as a green entrepreneurial initiative for Mobiya.

More Mobiya lights previously donated to Rays of Hope by the company as part of an entrepreneurial initiative, will also now be used with the Mobiya charging stations to provide access to energy for the Ithemba Labantwana kids.

It is heart-warming to know that these underprivileged kids will now have access to safe energy and no longer need to rely on candles and paraffin lamps at night, contributing to a safe home environment for them.

Our Sustainability Fellows also prepared a vegetable garden on the day and planted substantial number of seedlings at the Rays of Hope Homework Club with the Ithemba Labantwana kids. This provided for a practical learning and fun experience for the kids, simultaneously providing a sustainable food source for them.

The company's focus is on sustainable development and making a lasting impact on the communities where they support. True to this value the 2017 environment day project followed a donation of Indiya solar lamps donated by the company in 2014 to child-headed households who formed part of the Rays of Hope program at the time, together with an Indiya charging station at Rays of Hope.

"We are honoured to be able to provide these underprivileged children with access to green and safe energy, that enables access to education, as well as safer living conditions, as the risk of fire is reduced with the removal of candles and paraffin lamps" said Zanelle Dalglisch, Head of Sustainable Development, Anglophone Africa.



Celebrating Life Is On at Isiboniso Primary School



We celebrated Mandela Day 2017 by furthering one of our successful projects that was started in 2015, to create access to education at Isiboniso Primary School in Orange Farm, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity South Africa.

The company unveiled a beautifully painted swop-shop at the school on 18 July 2017 to enable the community to purchase donated items through the collection of glass. This creative concept will help reduce the clutter in the community, provide necessities to deprived Orange Farm residents and simultaneously serve to generate a small income for the school. Recycling will be focused on glass that are littered all over the township. We will support this initiative in the long term as a sustainable solution to positively impact the planet, as well as underprivileged people in Orange Farm.

In addition to that, we installed Indiya solar lights, provided the school with multiple large beanbags for naptime and a variety of toys and sporting equipment that will promote physical activity.

Our Access to Education partner, F'SASEC at VUT also donated goods which will be stocked in the swop-shop. The students from F'SASEC VUT provided recycling training to all of the children at Isiboniso Primary School. Furthermore, they established a vegetable garden that will sustain the kids by providing meals whilst they are attending school, as well as renovated bathrooms.

Zanelle Dalglish, Head of Sustainable Development, Anglophone Africa said: "Today was the continuation of a fruitful partnership that started two years ago and will continue to grow over the years. Our objective for creating access to education is to create a good learning environment, where learners can focus on building their future and become great members of the community. With projects like these, we strive to positively impact early childhood development to address the large skills gaps in the country, and prepare future engineers that could ultimately be employed at Schneider Electric."

Previously known as "Isikolo sama zenke", meaning the shack school in isiZulu, learners were taught on a cold hard floor, had no access to sanitary toilets, and no electricity. In true Life is On form, our team established a containerised crèche at the time and installed a solar streetlight to increase safety of the area.



We will support this initiative in the long term as a sustainable solution to positively impact the planet, as well as underprivileged people.



Life Is On | Schneider Electric