

## The City of Cape Town's Atlantis Solar PV Project FAQs

### 1. What is the Atlantis Solar PV Project?

The City of Cape Town's Atlantis Solar PV Project is the development of a 7MW grid-connected ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant situated in Atlantis, north of Cape Town. The project is part of a broader strategic plan from the City to reduce its reliance on Eskom and transition to cleaner energy sources. It is foreseen to be the first of similar projects which are to be rolled out across the metro. The facility will be connected to the City's electrical network at a nearby distribution substation, and the 7MW of solar generation will be directly supplied to the City's electrical grid. It is the first utility-scale renewable energy project in Cape Town, and will be owned and operated by the City.

### 2. Where will the installation be?

The solar PV installation will be situated on City-owned land approximately 33 hectares in size between the existing industrial and residential zones in the Atlantis area. The site was selected through a structured process of assessments and specialist studies, which includes an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that has been issued and approved. Due to its proximity to an existing substation, accessibility and its location within the City's supply area, the specific location was found to be best suited for the implementation of the City's first utility-scale renewable energy project.

### 3. Why is the City building a solar PV installation?

The Atlantis Solar PV Project is one of the initiatives the City is undertaking to achieve the City's Energy Strategy 2050 vision of 'Energy security for a prosperous Cape Town'. It supports the Strategy's commitments to harness new energy supply, operate a future-fit utility and to optimise energy use.

The City currently purchases most of its electricity from Eskom, but with high Eskom-price escalations expected in future, this may not be financially sustainable going forward. The Atlantis Solar PV plant will assist the City to generate affordable, reliable electricity by ensuring that the cost of generation is lower than power bought directly from Eskom. It will also help to improve the City's long-term financial sustainability as a power utility.

This project also contributes to achieving the City's goal of having net-zero carbon municipal buildings by 2030. The renewable energy generated from the Atlantis Solar PV project will supply municipal buildings directly, reducing the carbon emissions associated with the City's operations.

### 4. What phase is the project at currently and what is the high-level timeline?

On 1 March 2024, the City signed an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract with the appointed service provider. The project is currently in the detailed design phase with construction planned to start in August 2024 and to be completed within 12 months if there are no unforeseen delays. First power is expected to be produced towards the end of 2025. Importantly, a thorough and inclusive stakeholder engagement process will be followed for the full duration of the project.

## 5. Who is the service provider responsible for the project?

The City has appointed Lesedi-Technoserve Consortium to design, build and operate the ground-mounted solar PV installation. Lesedi-Technoserve brings a wealth of experience in local renewable energy projects and have been active in the Atlantis area since 2001. This Consortium will also lead the community and stakeholder engagement process on the City's behalf.

## 6. If I hear about threats or extortion related to the project, what can I do?

To help combat extortion impacting City construction and service delivery initiatives, Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis last year launched an Anti-Extortion Campaign under the slogan *Enough! Genoeg! Kwanele!*

The South African Police Service is the lead crime-investigation and fighting authority. In an effort to help protect City projects and service delivery, the City has set up a 24-hour toll-free hotline, with cash rewards on offer for tip-offs leading to arrest and prosecution.

**Anonymous tip-offs are encouraged:**

**Phone 24/7: 0800 00 6992**

**Email: [SSIMS.SSIUReporting@capetown.gov.za](mailto:SSIMS.SSIUReporting@capetown.gov.za)**

Lesedi has an ethical practice code of conduct, and more information on the procurement process can be found at: <https://lesedins.co.za/how-we-do-it/procurement/>. To root out fraud, corruption and unethical practices, Lesedi is subscribed to Whistle Blowers.

**Should you wish to report anything, go to:**

**<https://www.whistleblowing.co.za/make-a-report-steps/>**

**Phone 0800 340 340 OR SMS 33490**

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING! SPEAK UP!**