



CITY OF CAPE TOWN
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CITY OF CAPE TOWN

4 DECEMBER 2015

STATEMENT BY THE CITY'S EXECUTIVE MAYOR, PATRICIA DE LILLE

Cape Town scoops C40 Cities Award at COP21 conference in Paris

Last night, 3 December 2015, the City of Cape Town's Water Conservation and Water Demand Management Programme (WCWDM) was announced as the winner in the Adaptation Implementation Category in the 2015 C40 Cities Awards in Paris.

We are extremely proud of the City's WCWDM programme which has been instrumental in establishing Cape Town as a national leader in reducing water demand and losses.

This award reaffirms the City's international recognition as a leading city in the global efforts to address climate change.

This programme is also a concrete example of the manner in which cities are in a unique position to drive initiatives on the ground that prepare us for the projected climatic changes, particularly an expected reduction in annual average rainfall.

I was greatly honoured to receive this award on behalf of all residents of Cape Town who have worked with us to reduce water demand and implement water conservation measures.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to our officials in the City's Water and Sanitation Department for the many years of dedication and commitment to ensuring that we manage our water resources and infrastructure efficiently.

The City of Cape Town has taken a proactive and long-term approach to water management and has worked conscientiously to reduce water demand.

Through effective resource management and a shared responsibility with residents over a 15-year period, the WCWDM programme has resulted in a reduction in demand or water savings of more than 30%.

This is despite significant development and the more than 30% increase in population in Cape Town since 2001.

In 2007, Cape Town became the first municipality to adopt a comprehensive Water Conservation and Demand Management (WCWDM) Strategy aimed at minimising water losses and promoting efficient use of water.

The WCWDM programme is an innovative multi-pronged initiative that focuses on both technical and behavioural aspects of saving water.

Some of the technical interventions which have made excellent progress in minimising water losses include improved asset maintenance, pressure management schemes, pipe replacement programmes, leak detection and repairs, and improved meter management.

This project has resulted in massive carbon emission savings due to the City's ability to avoid infrastructure expansion which would have been required if water consumption had not been reduced.

Successful control of water demand growth has allowed the City to avoid or delay costly capital expansions to the water system.

Cape Town was shortlisted as one of 33 finalists, from more than 200 applications from 94 cities across the world for the C40 Awards.

The C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group is a network of the world's leading cities in the international efforts to combat and respond to climate change.

The group gives recognition to the successes of cities demonstrating world-leading policies and programmes that reduce carbon emissions and improve resilience.

It is a great honour for Cape Town to be part of the C40 Cities Group and we remain committed to a future that is more energy-secure, resource-efficient, and resilient to the effects of climate change.

We are extremely proud to be ranked in the group of cities actively addressing climate change.

Our WCWDM Programme is a key initiative in our mission to safeguard our resources against climate change impacts and to track our progress transparently.

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