



Western Cape
Government

Department of Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning

Designing a 2050 Emissions Pathway
for a low-carbon economy in the
Western Cape

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building exchange between
the Western Cape Government and The Climate Group

February 2021

Purpose

This report summarises the knowledge sharing and capacity building exchange between the Western Cape Government and The Climate Group in July and August 2020. A series of six on-line workshops took place with stakeholders in the Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town to introduce concepts around key components toward the development of a 2050 Emissions Pathway as well as working on the development of a 2050 Vision for a sustainable, just and equitable future for the province.

Introduction

In the African context, The Western Cape Government has a long history in climate change policy and strategy development, as well as pioneering a number of climate change responses at the provincial and local level. The 2014 Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy recognizes the urgency with which all stakeholders need to act in a transversal, bold and pioneering manner and at an unprecedented scale to contribute to reducing collective greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. The 2014 Strategy makes specific mention of a mitigation programme which includes the setting of performance benchmarks and identifying desired sectoral mitigation contributions. A lot of this work is mandated at the national level, but the Western Cape Government understands its role in implementing climate change responses and is looking at developing decision-support tools to facilitate action at the provincial level.

In June 2016, the Western Cape Government globally expressed its commitment to responding to climate change as a regional government, by joining The Climate Group – States and Regions Alliance. subsequently, in April 2017, the Western Cape Government signed the sub-national Climate Leadership MOU as part of the Under2 Coalition, a commitment to contribute to reducing global greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050.

At the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit, the Western Cape Government announced that it would undertake a 2050 Emissions Pathway Analysis as its initial commitment to the Under2 Coalition, informing progress toward a net-zero 2050. Working on the 2050 Emissions Pathway commenced in 2019, but due to most of the work being done in-house, by the Climate Change Directorate, it was determined that external support was required to assist with certain aspects of the work.

Background to the Western Cape 2050 Pathway Project

The Western Cape 2050 Emissions Pathways project will focus on defining an emissions reduction trajectory for the province, and will include among others costing of interventions, additional co-benefits and socio-economic opportunities. The exercise is the first of its kind for the Western Cape. In order to align with similar national and internal projects, a full emissions profile for the Western Cape will have to be completed with a detailed focus on the following sectors :

- Energy (including transport)
- Industrial process and product use (IPPU)
- Waste, including waste water
- Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU)

This exercise will be based on the methodology developed for use by the Under2 Coalition for 2050 Emissions Pathways. This methodology starts with a government's long-term GHG reduction goal and then works backwards to identify the technologies, infrastructure and investment that will be required to achieve it as well as the costs, risks and trade-offs associated with different policy approaches. The result will be a scenario with tailored options that explore the potential pace at which emissions reductions can be achieved in association with social and economic implications within the region.

A key component of building the pathway is developing the Western Cape Government's long-term (2050) vision. The vision will include the GHG reduction target options as well as socio-economic objectives. It is important that the development of the vision is a consultative process with key government and non-government stakeholders working together . The workshop series that is discussed below is the start of the development of the vision process.

Description of the Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building Engagement

The Climate Group's Future Fund presented the opportunity to access technical experts from The Climate Group to facilitate a series of engagements with stakeholders from the Western Cape Government as well as the City of Cape Town. It was originally planned to take the form of a 2 – 3 day in person engagement, but due to COVID-19 and country lockdowns , it was decided that a series of online engagements would be a feasible alternative given the restrictions.

Three staff from the Climate Pathway Project were identified by the Climate Group to work with the Climate Change Directorate and to provide support on pathway vision development, stakeholder mapping and pathway expertise.

Objectives of the Engagement

A set of objectives for the engagement were jointly developed by the Climate Change Directorate and the team from The Climate Group in order to direct the activities that should be included in the engagements. These included :

- Enhancing the understanding of 2050 Pathways and the work developed by The Climate Group as Secretariat to the Under2 Coalition;
- Development of a Vision for Western Cape's 2050 Pathway with the participation of the WCG and other stakeholders;
- Sharing best practice applied by other state and regional governments of the Under2 Coalition from emerging economies and developing regions who have developed / are developing a 2050 Pathway;
- Identify key stakeholders to be involved in the data compilation and project development; and
- Provide a solid foundation from which WCG will continue to develop their 2050 Pathway.

Timeline of Workshop Series

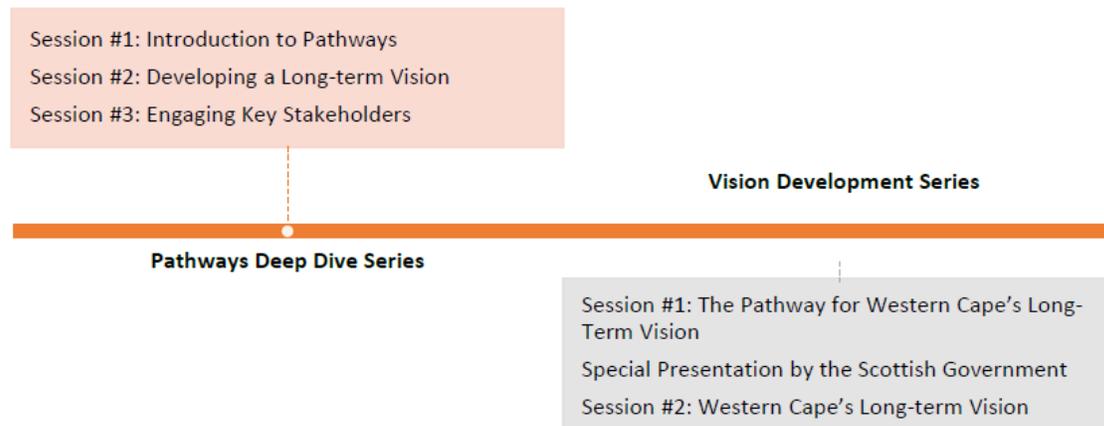


Figure 1 : Timeline of the Workshop Series

The series of engagements was designed as the first round of internal stakeholder engagement as part of the 2050 Emissions Pathway project. Stakeholders were asked to participate in the development of a 2050 Vision for a sustainable, just, equitable and low carbon future for the Western Cape and supporting the development of the programme. The topics covered in each of the sessions is described in the table below.

Date	Title of the Workshop	Key presentations and discussion points
21/07/2020	Pathways Deep Dive Session # 1 : Introduction to Pathways	Presentation on "What is a Pathway" Discussion on the benefits and importance of developing a pathway
23/07/2020	Pathways Deep Dive Session #2 : Vision Development	Presentation on Vision Development for a Pathways Process, including the need for the vision to include an emissions reduction target, priority sectors and socio-economic benefits
28/07/2020	Pathways Deep Dive Session #3 : Stakeholder Engagement	Presentation and Discussion on undertaking a successful stakeholder engagement process, including identification and classification of key stakeholder, the development of engagement strategy and how to go about communicating outcomes of the project to stakeholders
12/08/2020	Vision Development Session #1	This session included presentations by the Climate Change Directorate (WCG) and the City of Cape Town on their current emission reduction programmes and targets, as well as an initial discussion on the themes and main points that should be included in a 2050 Vision for the Western Cape.
19/08/2020	Special Presentation by the Scottish Government	Representatives from the Scottish Government gave a presentation on their Pathway and climate change response programme and discussed the short- and long-term planning that is required to form part of this exercise.
26/08/2020	Vision Development Session #2	This session focused on workshopping a draft vision in small groups, in order to develop 3 vision options that would then be discussed more broadly with stakeholders to decide on a final 2050 Vision for the Western Cape

Participants

32 representatives from over 10 different government departments and directorates in the Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town joined the six sessions. The Departments and Directorates represented included :

- Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning
 - Directorate: Climate Change
 - Directorate: Biodiversity and Coastal Management
 - Directorate: Pollution and Chemicals Management

- Directorate: Sustainability
- Directorate: Air Quality
- Directorate: Spatial Planning
- Directorate: Waste Management
- Directorate: Communications
- Department of Transport and Public Works
 - Directorate: Transport Policy and Strategy
 - Directorate: Road Network Planning
- Department of Agriculture
 - Chief Directorate : Research and Technology
 - Directorate : Agricultural Economic Services
- Department of Economic Development and Tourism
 - Directorate : Energy
- City of Cape Town – Sustainable Energy Markets



Figure 2 : Participants of Vision Development Session #2

Defining our Vision

At the end of the series, participants collectively described their vision for the Western Cape's 2050 Emissions Pathway. The following three vision options came out of the discussions and represented three differing viewpoints of a low carbon resilient future. These options are now being taken to stakeholders for further input in order to finalise the 2050 Vision for the Western Cape.

1. "To support the transition to a low carbon South African economy by striving for a climate resilient and net-zero Western Cape to ensure a prosperous, equitable and inclusive society. We will protect and invest in our natural capital through sustainable and green economic investment."
2. "To be a prosperous, equitable, innovative, safe and inclusive province for its citizens aiming to become the green economic hub of Africa and the lowest carbon province of South Africa. The Western Cape will achieve climate resilience by building on the principles of sustainability and a just transition in a way which promotes employment, empowers youth, women and vulnerable groups and develops connected, resilient and healthy communities."
3. "When I look into your eyes, I see our future. I know you will be breathing clean air because our energy comes from clean sources. I know you will be drinking clean water, because we have protected our rivers. You will be safe from harm. You will learn things that you need to know and be nurtured to be all you can be. And when you look into your baby's eyes, you will be glad to share this world with them."

Key Outcomes of the Engagements

A number of discussions, exercises and surveys were included in the workshops, to ensure participation and engagement by all stakeholders. Some of the key outcomes of these exercises are discussed below and will feed into the development of broader 2050 Pathways process.

1. An integrated climate change response needs to form part of the 2050 Vision

During the vision development sessions, the participants were divided into groups to work on a draft vision for the Western Cape's transition to a low carbon economy by 2050. Although the visions were different in some ways, there were a number of similarities between them. These included the need to strive for a net-zero economy that is climate resilient and sustainable, as well as a society that is prosperous, safe, inclusive and equitable. There was also a strong emphasis on the need to protect the Western Cape's natural resources and

general environment. It was clear from these discussions that the 2050 Vision could not solely look at emission reductions, but needed to bring in all components of climate change response into the future planning.

2. Ambition

Participants discussed the need for the Western Cape to be ambitious in its Pathway development and how to deal with the desire by some for net-zero targets. Although consensus was not reached on all issues a low carbon future and a focus on the green economy were both seen as important parts of the ambitious actions for the future.

3. Learning from others – the global perspective

The presentation from the Scottish Government gave participants inspiration for the ambition of the Western Cape Pathway and offered new ideas for building robustness, credibility and accountability into the Pathway process. The Western Cape will also use this opportunity to become a pioneer in South Africa and the Under2 Coalition, by inspiring other governments to take on the task of building a pathway.

4. Quality of Life

Participants highlighted the need to include improving the quality of life of Western Cape citizens especially for the poorest members of the community and create a Western Cape where all citizens have secure access to resources in strong and connected communities.

5. Prioritised Just Transition

Participants identified the desire for the Western Cape to be highly ambitious with the Pathway, while empowering Western Cape citizens and ensuring that equity and a just transition are at the heart of the process. Participants identified the need to be inclusive of social groups in the process of pathway development with emphasis on creating a pathway that works for all Western Cape citizens, especially women, youth and vulnerable groups.

6. Priority sectors

One of the outcomes of the discussion was the identification of priority sectors to focus emission reductions on. The energy, agriculture and transport sectors were identified as primary sectors for transformation, with waste and buildings identified as other key sectors. It should however, be noted that this was a small group of stakeholders, who highlighted their key areas of focus as such is not a full reflection of the stakeholders opinions on priority sectors.

The workshops were well received by the participants based on a short survey in the final session. Not all participants attended at the sessions, and some were only involved in the last few sessions.

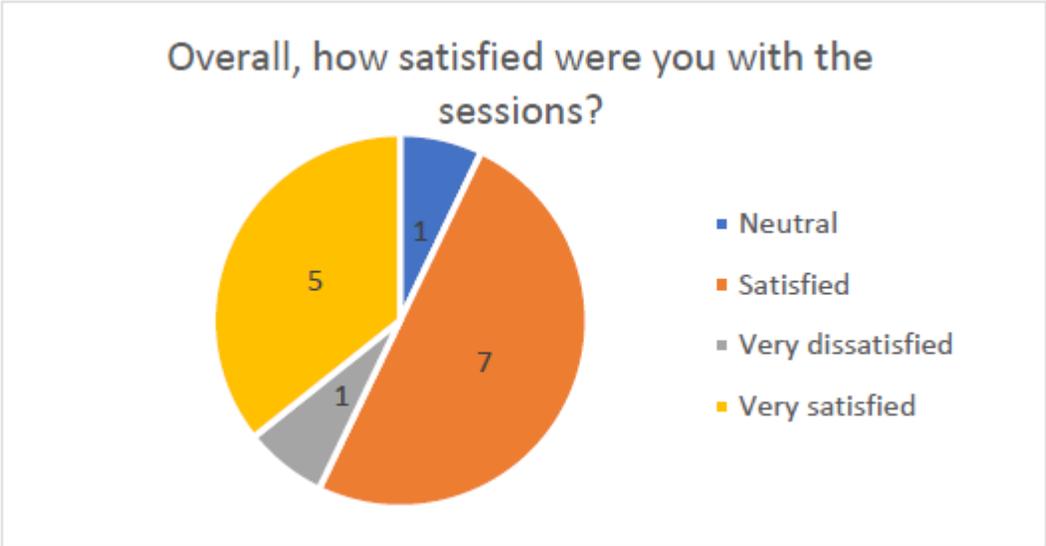


Figure 3 : Participants satisfaction with the workshop series

These sessions built a strong foundation for the Pathway. During the final session, the Climate Change Directorate presented the next steps, including the vision options being taken forward to other stakeholders to develop a unified vision for 2050. The outcomes of the series and continued work will feed directly into the current review of the Western Cape Climate Change Response Strategy. A GHG emissions inventory will be developed to assist in making data-driven choices on how to reduce emissions in the province.

Word of Thanks

The Western Cape Government's Directorate Climate Change in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, would like to express our gratitude to The Climate Group, the Under2 Future Fund and the Governments of Qubec, Scotland, Wales and Baten-Wuerttemberg for making this funded technical support opportunity possible.

The support provided by the Climate Transparency and Pathways teams was an invaluable start to the process to develop our 2050 Pathway. The engagement allowed us to achieve two main goals:

- Built the knowledge and capacity of key multisectoral stakeholders who will be involved in the 2050 Pathways process
- Start the development of a 2050 Vision that will be a key component of the Pathway exercises going forward.

We are also grateful to the team for arranging a presentation from the Scottish Government to share their experience and process with our stakeholders. This session was inspiring in showing what can be achieved with this type of exercise. We have learnt so much from this engagement and will be taking the lessons learnt forward into our pathway development work.

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