

Cape Town, South Africa:

Energy Water Waste Forum

Model: Non-Commercial Convening

Cape Town convenes and funds an Energy Water Waste Forum, which is listed as a sub action in the city's **Climate Action Plan**. Over time, it has become a **'think tank'** for **constructive discussions** between the city government and businesses on energy, water, and waste.

THE CHALLENGE

In 2009, the city created an energy efficiency forum in response to a national energy crisis. In 2017, as Cape Town faced an **unprecedented drought** and given the lack of public-private engagement on sustainable resource use, they changed it to include water and waste.

HOW IT WORKS

With over **1,000 private sector members**, the forum hosts dialogues on sector-specific innovations and best practices. For example, a recent forum focused on business strategies for harnessing data in their high performance buildings.

Joining is free and the Sustainable Energy Facilitation unit within the city's Sustainable Energy Markets Department coordinates activities.

The forum is a **collaborative space**, even within a competitive environment. Businesses often share their challenges and learn from each other. Site visits take smaller groups to see the technologies discussed.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the forum consists of a mix of smaller in person engagements and larger online discussions.



LESSONS

Cities can create and adapt such forums as needed. Cape Town's forum **shifted over time** to include additional sectors as well as different in-person and online engagement modes.

The forum maintains engagement because businesses value the **exchange of knowledge** and the ability to keep up with city regulations and developments. Creating this space requires **active leadership** by people or departments with clearly defined roles and responsibilities.