

The Use of Renewable Energy to Promote Sustainable Rural Livelihoods in the Remote Isolated Rural Areas

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ABSTRACT There are abundant sustainable renewable natural resources of all types spread all over South Africa including rural, remote, isolated areas which can be tapped to produce modern energy services for the rural poor. However, there is paucity of effort on the part of the stake holder to make sustainable energy available to the rural people hence impacting on provision and delivery of socio-economic amenities. Electricity is no exception. The standard of living condition in the rural locations is appalling and it is exacerbated by lack of modern energy. Rural poor continue to live in abject and chronic poverty because of lack of basic social economic amenities and services one of which is a lack of modern energy. This article examines the plight of historically disadvantaged people who live in the rural remote isolated areas and have problems accessing modern energy. This article submits that it is the responsibility of the government to make modern energy available but the energy that seems to be available is from fossil coal that emits carbon dioxide causing global warming and climate change. The article accentuates that even though it is desirable that modern energy should be made available in order to improve socio economic activities and standard of living, it should come from renewable sources. The article reveals that energy from these sources is sustainable and will alleviate poverty, promote a higher standard of living, create and promote socio-economic opportunities and it is environmentally friendly.