

ON A CLEAR DAY 2021

NBI
National Business Initiative

On A Clear Day: Issue 786, 18 March 2021

NBI NEWS/NBI IN THE NEWS

VIEW THE NATIONAL BUSINESS INITIATIVE'S (NBI'S) RESPONSE TO COVID-19 [here](#).

GENDER PAY GAP PILOT LAUNCH: CLOSING THE PAY GAP IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIVATE SECTOR The National Business Initiative's (NBI's) strategy of driving social and economic transformation aims to address the structural barriers to an equitable and just society. **Read NBI's latest Quick Brief, [here](#).**

THIS NATIONAL WATER WEEK (15 TO 22 MARCH 2021), the **National Business Initiative (NBI)** is highlighting our important water initiatives over the past year. With funding and support from **AECI, Astron Energy, the Grundfos Foundation, the Netherlands Embassy** and **PepsiCo** our COVID-19 emergency response efforts in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Gauteng have seen a combination of foot-operated standpipes and handwash units being rolled out in local communities. For more information on the NBI's water-related work, please contact: **[Alex McNamara](#)**.

THE UK IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING SA'S CARBON-NEUTRAL FUTURE A year ago, as the Covid-19 pandemic was just unfolding, few could have anticipated that it would remain our most urgent challenge today. **[Nigel Casey, The Sunday Times, 14 March 2021](#)**.

HOW DO WE BRIDGE THE ADAPTATION FINANCE GAP? Accessing funding for adaptation projects requires the right combination of scale, impact investment and bankability. Watch this **video** to gain insights from our expert panel on how to 'welcome' climate finance, **[here](#)**.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC DEMAND STUDY SERVICE PROVIDER TERMS OF REFERENCE – MARCH 2021 The NBI, supported by Atlantis Special Economic Zone is looking for a service provider to carry out a demand analysis for Solar PV in Cape Town and the West Coast area, including current and future projections based on existing legislative framework. View the full RFP: **[here](#)**.

INDUSTRY NEWS

HOW DIRECT INVESTOR ENGAGEMENT DRIVES CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSPARENCY If the recent net-zero pledges made by countries, including China and the US administration are achieved, analysts predict that this could limit global temperature rise to around 2.1 degrees Celsius by the end of the century. [Emily Kreps, CDP, 17 March 2021.](#)

GENDER EQUALITY MEANS BUSINESS, SECRETARY-GENERAL TELLS CORPORATE LEADERS The UN Secretary-General has urged corporate leaders to achieve gender equality, highlighting the benefits for the private sector and society at large. [UN News, 16 March 2021.](#)

A NEW STANDARD FOR ELECTRIC UTILITIES TO MAXIMIZE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SDGS The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) has today launched an SDG Sector Roadmap for the electric utilities sector. [WBCSD, 15 March 2021.](#)

NOT TOO LONG AGO THE SOUTH AFRICAN ECONOMY WAS GROWING AT OVER 5% A YEAR From 2004 to 2007 it became the new normal, with GDP regularly reported around that rate. Any dip below it was considered a national failure. [Busi Mavuso, BLSA, 15 March 2021.](#)

3 ACTIONS FOR BUSINESS TO PREPARE FOR A POST-PANDEMIC FUTURE The ambitious vaccine rollout programmes that are underway in many parts of the world are finally bringing hope that we may be turning the tide against COVID-19 and we can begin to open society and economies more broadly. [Andy Baldwin, WEF, 13 March 2021.](#)

NBI MEMBER COMPANY NEWS

WHAT NBI MEMBER COMPANIES ARE DOING IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 [View here.](#) If you are an NBI member company and would like to be profiled on this website page, please contact: [Gillian Hutchings.](#)

PWC SURVEY FINDS CEOS ARE VOICING 'RECORD LEVELS' OF OPTIMISM Nearly one year after Covid-19 reached South African shores, the country's CEOs are voicing record levels of optimism in the global economic recovery, with 76% of global businesses predicting that economic growth will improve this year. [Engineering News, 17 March 2021.](#)

EXXARO RECEIVES 4/4 TRANSITION PATHWAY INITIATIVE RANKING Diversified miner Exxaro Resources has received a Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI) ranking of 4/4, which reflects the company's commitment to managing greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions. [Mining Weekly, 16 March 2021.](#)

CONSULTANCY SAYS CARBON OFFSETS PROVIDE WHOLE NEW MARKET FOR TRADE Under South African carbon tax regulations, companies are able to use carbon credits either from their own registered projects or from third parties to offset a portion of their carbon tax liability. [Engineering News, 16 March 2021.](#)

WOOLIES COMMITS R2M TO WATER SECURITY IN SCHOOLS Celebrating National Water Week, which runs from 15 to 22 March this year, Woolworths has committed R2m to water security and sanitation in schools. [BizCommunity, 15 March 2021.](#)

COMMITTING TO ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE - ERM AWARDED UK ACCREDITED EIA QUALITY MARK This is in recognition of our commitment to excellence in EIA activities and our corporate pledge to take action to improve environmental practices. [ERM, 11 March 2021.](#)

MONDI SCOOPS RISK AND SAFETY AWARD FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR AT THE RISI PPI AWARDS 2021 The awards celebrate leadership, vision, innovation and strategic accomplishments within the global pulp and paper industry. [Mondi, 11 March 2021.](#)

BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP (BCG) Featured Insights March 2021 [Read here.](#)

EVERY DAY IS WORLD WATER DAY FOR SUN INTERNATIONAL'S CASINO IN DURBAN World Water Day is celebrated on March 22 and never before has this day been so pertinent. With South Africa and many regions of the world caught in the grip of drought, businesses have had to grapple with the reality of severe water-scarcity. [Getaway, 11 March 2021.](#)

IMPERIAL ENHANCES ITS DIGITAL SUPPLY CHAIN OFFERING IN AFRICA Imperial is proud to announce that Vitalliance, its joint venture with technology provider One Network Enterprises, has been selected to steward the OpenLMIS platform serving nine countries in Africa, beginning in March 2021. [Imperial, 9 March 2021](#).

NOTICES, REPORTS, OPINIONS AND SURVEYS

GREATER COLLABORATION IS NEEDED TO SECURE SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD Retailers and suppliers should work together in the interests of securing more sustainable seafood to their customers. [WWF-SA, 17 March 2021](#).

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: HOW COMPANIES STACK UP [Visual Capitalist, 16 March 2021](#).

SE4ALL LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO HELP DRIVE RELIABLE ENERGY SUPPLY International organisation Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) has launched a new year-long campaign called “Be Bold” to drive ambitious action to meet Sustainable Development Goal number seven (SDG7), which calls for affordable and reliable energy for all by 2030. [Engineering News, 16 March 2021](#).

5 WAYS TO START YOUR SDG JOURNEY IN 2021 As industry and technology advance, as new markets, populations and global health risks grow and as natural resources diminish, informed consumers and investors are calling on businesses to step up. [BizCommunity, 12 March 2021](#).

NOMINATE A #LOCALNATUREHERO FOR EARTH HOUR – AND STAND TO WIN WITH WWF! This year’s Earth Hour, which takes place on 27 March 2021 at 8:30pm local time, will be a key moment to unite people to speak up for nature. [WWF-SA, 10 March 2021](#).

APPLICATIONS FOR THE SAB FOUNDATION’S 2021 SOCIAL INNOVATION AND DISABILITY EMPOWERMENT AWARDS ARE OPEN Applications for the 11th annual SAB Foundation Social Innovation Awards and 6th annual Disability Empowerment Awards are open for entry and eligible entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply. Closing date: 31 March 2021. [SAB Foundation Website](#).

THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION CELEBRATES NATIONAL WATER WEEK (NWW) ANNUALLY IN MARCH WHICH IS ACTUALLY COMMEMORATED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. Currently taking place, 15 to 22 March 2021, the theme is: “Valuing water”. Read more [here](#).

NBI INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Bringing you news and the latest research from our international partners

CDP in South Africa is a long-standing partnership between the London-based CDP and the NBI. They have built the most comprehensive collection of self-reported environmental information in the world. Over the past 20 years CDP has created a system that has resulted in unparalleled engagement on environmental issues. Read their recently published **News Article**, entitled: “**The EU takes a big step to further global sustainability standards**”, [here](#).

UNGC CEO WATER MANDATE NBI partners with the CEO Water Mandate to encourage water stewardship in South Africa. Established by the UN Global Compact in 2007 and rooted in the belief that cross-sectoral collaboration on shared water goals is the most effective path to more sustainable water management, the CEO Water Mandate is a unique public-private initiative that mobilizes business leaders for water stewardship. Read their **March 2021 Newsletter** published this week, [here](#).

WE MEAN BUSINESS (WMB) NBI is the South African partner to WMB. WMB is a coalition of organizations working with thousands of the world’s most influential businesses and investors to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. Read their latest **Insights Article** entitled: “**Zero-Carbon Transition – Latest signals of change (12.03.21)**”, [here](#).

WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WBCSD) WBCSD is an international, CEO-led organization of over 200 leading businesses working together to accelerate the transition to a sustainable world. The NBI is the global partner of the WBCSD in South Africa. Listen to their podcast entitled: “**Circular Views podcast - episode II: the circular bioeconomy**”, [here](#).

NBI VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/MEETINGS | 2021

ONLINE WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS: GENDER QUALITY & THE BUSINESS SECTOR IN SA | Friday, 26 March 2021 | 10:00 to 12:30 | In celebrating Human Rights Day, the Global Compact Network South Africa in partnership with UN Women and the National Business Initiative (NBI) will discuss human rights challenges and in particular gender inequality and the gender pay gap as a concrete issue where business can drive positive impact. [Click here to view details and to register](#).

BUILDING CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AND ACTION IN THE LEAD UP TO UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, COP26 IN GLASGOW | Friday, 26 March 2021 | 11:00 to 13:00 via Zoom | The British High Commissioner to South Africa, Nigel Casey MVO, Chief Executive Officer of the National Business Initiative (NBI), Joanne Yawitch and Charles Perry of the COP26 Climate Champions Team are hosting a discussion on building climate ambition and private sector leadership in the lead up to COP26. [Full details and Zoom registration link here](#).

UNLOCKING CORPORATE PROCUREMENT TO DRIVE SOUTH AFRICA'S RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY TRANSITION LAUNCH | Monday, 29 March 2021 | 14:00 to 16:00 SAST via Zoom | Join the National Business Initiative (NBI) in partnership with The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), The Climate Group, CDP and supported by We Mean Business, to accelerate corporate renewable electricity procurement in South Africa. [Full details and Zoom registration link here](#).

VIRTUAL EVENTS/WEBINARS/COURSES/WORKHOPS | 2021

CDP BITESIZE WEBINARS: HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS | March 2021 | Join a series of 30-minute webinars with CDP's gold accredited solutions providers on a range of sustainability topics throughout March. [Sign-up here](#).

WBCSD WEBINAR: “BUSINESS ACTION ON VALUING WATER” | 22 March 2021 | Check Time Zone | This webinar is being organized on World Water Day and as part of the ongoing [We Value Nature 10-day challenge](#) and will bring together leading businesses to share their strategies and approaches to valuing water. The discussions will help participants appreciate the business case and learn about sector-specific issues and perspectives to valuing water. Please [register here](#).

THE VALUE OF WATER FOR BUSINESS | 22 March 2021 | 10:00 to 11:30 ET | World Water Day 2021 focuses on the value of water, highlighting its importance from multiple angles, including cultural, environmental, economic, and financial. This session will be separated into two sections. [CEO Water Mandate Website](#).

CAMBRIDGE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP SA - ONLINE SUSTAINABILITY PRACTITIONER PROGRAMME | 22 to 26 March 2021 | This programme is designed for middle to senior managers in organisations from the private or public sector to equip them with a high-level understanding of the role of sustainability in future proofing their organisations. Sustainability rests on a simple premise - the inter-connectedness of all things. It requires re-generative thinking. It is something that must become deeply embedded in the day-to-day operations of an organisation to guide it to a different future, particularly in a developing world context. Apply [here](#) or email: elspeth.donovan@cisl.cam.ac.uk for more information.

INDALO INCLUSIVE VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2021 | 23 to 25 March 2021 | Creating Partnerships for Adaptive Entrepreneurial Innovations for a Green Recovery and Promotion of an Inclusive, Just and Resilient Economy in South Africa. [Details here](#).

WEBINAR: HOW TO DO TCFD REPORTING | 24 March 2021 | 14:00 to 15:00 GMT | Join them as they dig into the practical considerations of how to do TCFD reporting, providing important insights for all market participants, from corporations to

financial institutions. Specialists will share their perspectives on the TCFD reporting journey, offering answers to common questions. [S&P Global Website](#).

GET READY FOR COP26: JOIN THE RACE TO ZERO THROUGH THE SBTI BUSINESS AMBITION FOR 1.5°C | 24 March 2021 | Check Time Zone | In the run-up to the Biden's Summit on Earth Day and COP26 in November 2021, join the SBTi for a webinar that will provide a detailed overview of why setting the most ambitious Science-based targets matters. The session will cover the SBTi Business Ambition for 1.5°C commitment model for net-zero targets and 1.5°C aligned SBTs, the key criteria and opportunities. [Register here](#).

WBCSD VISION 2050 VIRTUAL LAUNCH EVENT | 25 March 2021 | 09:00 to 10:00 or 17:00 to 18:00 CET | Join the WBCSD for the launch of their refreshed Vision 2050, a bold agenda for business action and long-term value creation as we move into this critical decade for our planet. The session will convene business, partners and stakeholders to explore their transformative new agenda that fully aligns with the Paris Agreement and SDGs. [Register here](#).

BLOOMBERG NEW VOICES: JOHANNESBURG LAUNCH | 30 March 2021 | 10:00 SAST | Bloomberg New Voices, a global initiative to increase the visibility of women and other under-represented executives in finance across media platforms, is launching its intensive media training programme for the first time in Johannesburg, South Africa with a virtual event to commemorate the expansion which will feature a keynote by South African Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Fundi Tshazibana, followed by a discussion about the challenges for female representation on boards, management and policy-making, and the implications for economic performance. [Register here](#).

GREENFIN 21: THE PREMIER ESG ONLINE EVENT ALIGNING THE SUSTAINABILITY, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMUNITIES | 13 to 14 April 2021 | Investors are increasingly utilizing ESG data to inform investment decisions, but a lack of standardization and communication with corporations is leading to confusion and limiting the acceleration of corporate sustainability initiatives. [Request an invitation](#).

3RD POWER WEEK AFRICA INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE | 20 to 23 April 2021 | Power Week Africa promises valuable insights on a diverse range of topics critical to the African electric power & energy industry today. [Website and details](#).

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