

**SCHOOLS  
AND CLINICS  
ELECTRIFICATION  
POLICY GUIDELINES**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The imbalance between the developed and the previously neglected sectors in South Africa is reflected in the level of service provision. In order to address some of the associated disparities, the electrification of public facilities, particularly schools and clinics is a matter that needs special and urgent attention.

Education and health care are basic services which need to be provided in the best way possible. This means that government needs to provide the necessary resources to facilitate the effective provision of such services.

Schools provide education which is the core foundation of our economy. For learners to be well educated and productive in future, they need a conducive and an enabling environment. To provide a conducive environment, schools need to be electrified which would then allow the use of advanced teaching aids facilitating learning. Similarly, clinics are the first point of contact in health care provision. For clinics to provide optimal health care, electricity is essential.

The majority of schools and clinics that need to be electrified are in remote rural areas, far from the existing electricity infrastructure. Many of the rural areas in South Africa do not have a well-developed infrastructure to bring the necessary services to the communities living there. The needs of these rural areas are vast and cover a broad spectrum, such as roads, energy supply, health care, education, water and sanitation. In order to facilitate the upliftment of these communities both now and in the future, Government identified the electrification of all schools and clinics in South Africa as one of the priorities.

This document will address issues such as the rationale behind the inclusion of backlog schools and clinics in the Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP); the scope of the schools and clinics electrification program; funding for electrification; electrification maintenance; and payment for electricity consumption.

## 2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this document is to provide policy and strategic guidance to facilitate the electrification of schools and clinics.

## 3. SCOPE

These guidelines are applicable to all licensed implementing entities of the Integrated National Electrification Program who are implementing the programme on behalf of the Department of Energy.

## 4. Rationale for the inclusion of backlog schools and clinics in the Integrated National Electrification Programme

There are a number of benefits of electrification for both the clinics and schools. These benefits, inter alia, include the following:

- 4.1 The electrification of schools enables the use of modern technology in education (such as television, video, satellite dishes, overhead projectors and computers) which enhances the quality of education.
- 4.2 In some South African schools a platooning system is in operation. This means that two different schools occupy the same school building every day. With electrification, the school hours can be extended, particularly during the short daylight hours in winter months.
- 4.3 There is also need for schools to serve as community centres where courses in adult basic education and skills training can be offered in the evening. Electricity is vital for this initiative. Similarly, the school can be hired for social activities which would generate income for the school.
- 4.4 Electricity will enable schools and clinics to become true centres of community activities such as political and social meetings after school and clinic hours.

4.5 The treatment of patients at a clinic without electricity after dark is difficult, and Health-care can be enhanced through the availability of electricity.

4.6 At clinics, vaccinations need to be refrigerated at prescribed minimum and maximum temperatures.

4.7 The living conditions of staff at the schools and clinics are also improved with the availability of electricity.

4.8 Electricity will further accelerate and strengthen black economic empowerment by providing contracts to small, medium and macro enterprises (SMMEs) in South Africa.

## 5. Scope of the national schools and clinics electrification programme

### 5.1 Timeframe

The goal is to electrify all unelectrified existing schools and clinics and ensure that there is alignment with the 2012 universal access objective.

### 5.2 Subsidy levels

- The following subsidy levels shall be applicable for the electrification of schools and clinics within the Integrated National Electrification Programme (INEP) for the 2010/11 financial year:
  - Building of a 1km line of bulk supply should not exceed R140,000 for 2010/11 which will be revised on an annual basis. Furthermore, the kilometers to the school should not exceed 3 kilometers from the grid infrastructure.
  - The wiring of all the classrooms in a particular school should not exceed R85 000.

- The installation of an adequate PV Solar System in a school where grid electricity connection is not feasible should not exceed R200 000 including the wiring of four classrooms.
- All the costs mentioned in 5.2 should be inclusive of VAT. Furthermore, should the costs and distance exceed the set limits, a request should be forwarded to the Department of Energy for approval.
- The following factors will influence the outcome of the request;
  - The number of learners & the size of the school
  - The point of supply should contribute to the electrification of households in the area
  - The bulk infrastructure that will supply the intended school can benefit more than one school.
  - Any other socio-economic benefits that the school contributes to the community

### **5.3 Criteria for the electrification of backlog schools and clinics**

- 5.3.1 Only public schools and clinics not previously electrified with the appropriate electrification technology, as and when recommended and approved by the relevant Departments of Health and/or Basic Education will qualify for electrification funding from the INEP funding.
- 5.3.2 Only permanent buildings and structures recommended and approved by the Departments of Basic Education and/or Health will be considered for grid and non-grid electrification.
- 5.3.3 Any other building structures (such as mud structures) will be considered for electrification pending the signed agreement between the Department of Basic Education /Health and the Department of

Energy. Furthermore, the structure/building must not pose any safety hazard, should it be electrified.

5.3.4 The electrification of residential homes staff on the premises of a school or a clinic will be considered for electrification and treated as normal household electrification.

5.3.5 In order to achieve the objectives of the INEP, both grid and non-grid technologies will be provided. Where grid electrification is not feasible, consideration will be given to the installation of non-grid technologies to address basic energy needs.

5.3.6 Non-grid technologies and mini-grid systems (where applicable) may include alternative energy sources, which should conform to approved national and recognised international standards, as amended from time to time.

5.3.7 Industry-agreed (SABS) technical specifications for internal wiring will apply.

5.3.8 Vandalised and unsafe schools and clinics will not qualify for electrification.

5.3.9 The grid electrification of a farm school will only be considered for approval if the property (farm) already has electricity and permission is obtained from the owner and the Department of Basic Education to electrify the farm school. National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) standard tariffs will be applied to each point of supply, in line with the applicable tariff definitions and current policy. No additional subsidies for monthly consumption will be given by the electricity supplier, except for the inherent cross subsidies in the standard tariffs.

5.3.10 Electrification of a farm project will only be considered if the Department of Basic Education has been given “ownership” or “right of way” to the premises, the building, as well as the land on which it

is built, for a minimum period of five to ten years (negotiable). Public schools on private property will thus only be electrified if an agreement has been entered into between the MEC for basic education in that particular Province and the owner, as required in terms of Section 14 of the South African Schools Act (Act 84 of 1996).

- 5.3.11 The electrification of new schools and clinics (post 1 April 2001) and / or extensions to schools and clinics already electrified will be the responsibility of the Departments of Basic Education and Health respectively. Such facilities do not qualify for funding from the INEP.

## **5.4 Planning**

- 5.4.1 The DoE shall include the targets, budgets and focus areas for schools and clinics to be electrified in the INEP.
- 5.4.2 A one-year fixed and three-year rolling plan will indicate the schools and clinics to be electrified as part of the INEP to ensure the provision of a point of supply at these facilities.
- 5.4.3 Local Government shall integrate the electrification of schools and clinics into the respective Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).
- 5.4.4 Local Government and the responsible Departments of Basic Education and/or Health will be jointly responsible for selecting, prioritising and approving the schools' and clinics' electrification plans.

## **5.5 Implementation**

Implementing agents such as Eskom and municipalities will be responsible for the detailed planning, design, harmonisation and implementation of the Schools and Clinics Electrification Programme.



## **5.6 Monitoring and evaluation**

For successful implementation, monitoring and evaluation are compulsory. Effective monitoring and evaluation of the programme requires reports on: -

5.6.1 The number of schools and clinics energised

5.6.2 Monthly capital expenditure per individual project;

5.6.3 Monthly social indicator report (e.g. BEE);

5.6.4 Density indicators - rural/urban.

## **5.7 Communication and consultation**

5.7.1 Ensure community participation in the planning and execution of the electrification of schools and clinics through the IDP process.

5.7.2 All stakeholders' roles are to be negotiated and agreed upon upfront.

## **6. FUNDING**

### **6.1 Establishment of funding**

6.1.1 The National Electrification Fund (NEF) shall, in a separate cost allocation, provide funding for the electrification of schools and clinics.

6.1.2 Donor funding shall be allocated as additional funding to the NEF, and in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the donor.

### **6.2 Administration of the funding**

The fund shall be administered by the Department of Energy as prescribed by existing national legislative framework (such as PFMA, DoRA).

### 6.3 The scope of schools and clinics electrification funding

Capital expenditure includes the provision of a point of supply and minimum standard internal wiring as set out below:

- 6.3.1 **Non-grid:** Stand-alone energy supplies that will satisfy the needs of schools and clinics.
- 6.3.2 **Grid:** Reticulation up to the meter box, as well as internal wiring. The scope of funding will be based on the norms and standards of the respective Provincial Departments of Health and Basic Education.
- 6.3.3 Any additional requirements will require funding by the stakeholders and/or customers.
- 6.3.4 The NEF cost allocation for schools and clinics shall cover full payment of the connection fee. However, the deposits are not covered by the cost allocation or subsidy and customers should pay the applicable deposit to their specific tariff. Proof of payment of these deposits will be kept by the relevant supply authorities.

### 7. Electrification maintenance

- 7.1 In order to facilitate the sustainability of the National Schools and Clinics Electrification Programme, the Departments of Basic Education and/or Health is to provide for the maintenance of grid and non-grid electricity in their budgets.
- 7.2 Service authorities providing a point of supply to grid schools and clinics shall be responsible for maintenance up to the point of supply.
- 7.3 Service authorities providing non-grid installations shall be responsible for the installation and maintenance budgeted for by the Departments of Basic Education and/or Health, with a minimum guarantee for twelve (12) months on the equipment, e.g. control gear and batteries, after installation.

## **8. Payment for electricity consumption**

- 8.1 The monthly payment for consumption by grid-electrified schools and clinics shall be borne by the Departments of Basic Education and Health respectively. Schools will be responsible for the payment of their own electricity accounts.
- 8.2 Payment for the monthly consumption of non-grid electrified schools and clinics does not apply, but a service fee is payable to provide for the maintenance of systems. This cost shall be borne by the Departments of Basic Education and Health respectively.

## **9. Billing and metering**

- Customers are allowed to choose between conventional and prepayment meters.

## **9. Governance**

- The National Schools and Clinics Electrification Programme is integrated into the INEP and adopts the governance as contained in the new INEP documents.
- The department of Energy will ensure that technical audits of all schools and clinics that have been electrified are done.