



## **GEPF HELPING TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Electricity is not only a key industry in the economy but a vital part of every South African's daily life. Renewable energy sources are an alternative and sustainable way of keeping the lights on across the country as they are a reliable energy source and have the potential to sustainably reduce the pressure on our national power grid in the long term.

South Africa's energy demand is expected to double by 2030, and even though our power infrastructure is already strained, electricity demand is rising significantly, which is why alternative sources of energy are so important for now and for the future.

The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) recognises the value of renewable energy to the country and actively invests in this sector with this in mind.

### ***What is renewable energy?***

Renewable energy is energy that is collected from renewable resources, which are naturally replenished such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides and geothermal heat. Renewable energy often provides energy in four important areas: electricity generation, air and water heating/cooling, transportation, and rural (off-grid) energy services.

### ***Why do we need renewable energy?***

The link between global warming, carbon emissions and the heavy reliance on burning fossil fuels such as coal as a main source of energy is undeniable. Both locally and globally, alternative sources of energy that emit lower greenhouse gases are starting to take priority and investments in this sector are a developmental imperative.

# What has GEPF invested in renewable energy?

- R632 million in Kathu – a 100MW Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plant in the Northern Cape;
- R612 million in Xina CSP – a 100MW parabolic trough Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plant in the Pofadder Municipality in the Northern Cape;
- R525 million in Bokpoort – a 50 MW CSP plant located in the Northern Cape;
- R346 million in Touwsrivier – a 44MW Concentrator Photovoltaic (CPV) project located in Touwsrivier, Western Cape
- R293 million in The Boshoff Project, which is a 60MW solar photovoltaic park in Boshoff in the Free State Province
- R236 million in Jasper – a 75MW solar photovoltaic plant in the Northern Cape.
- R1.1 billion into The Ilangaletu Karoshoek project – a CSP plant with 4.5 hours thermal storage, situated close to Upington
- R86 million in Lereko Metier Sustainable Capital Fund, which funded 8 renewable energy projects including 7 local wind solar projects and a hydropower project in Uganda.

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