

## **Eskom steams ahead to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

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Eskom's total emissions of carbon dioxide are about 210 million tons a year - more than the US's largest electricity utility and almost three times that of Sasol, South Africa's biggest private sector emitter of carbon.

Coal is used to produce 88 percent of Eskom's electricity. The utility plans to reduce this to less than 70 percent by 2025 and cut the ratio of carbon produced per unit of electricity.

However, it acknowledges that absolute emissions will rise until 2025. Thereafter, they will start to drop, although no targets have been set.

Eskom's corporate services director, Steve Lennon, said relative reductions in emissions would be achieved by introducing more clean coal technologies, diversifying away from coal, encouraging energy efficiency and decommissioning old coal-fired plants.

Eskom would introduce a supercritical technology to improve the efficiency of electricity produced per ton of coal by 6 percent, he said.

Nuclear power was at the core of its coal diversification plan, but Lennon was confident "big progress" was being made in the commercial viability of renewables, particularly solar.

Eskom is making a final R6 billion investment decision on a solar thermal demonstration plant to produce 100 megawatts to feed into the national grid. If it goes ahead, the plant would be the world's biggest. The cost has doubled since the idea was first mooted.

The utility is also building a 100MW wind facility  
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