

# CENTRAL KAROO

## DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



### SECTION: MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

#### CLIMATE CHANGE



The Section aims to create an environment supportive of good health and minimize those factors detrimental to our health in the Central Karoo district

The Section is focused on the needs and expectations of our communities in the Central Karoo. We seek a good relationship between the municipality and its inhabitants, with a collective responsibility for the environment to ensure that all communities will live in an environment that is beneficial to their health

#### OUR FUNCTION

The National Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003) defines Municipal Health Services as Environmental Health. In terms of Section 1 of the Act Municipal Health Services are defined as:

- Water Quality Monitoring;
- Waste Management and Monitoring;
- Food Control;
- Environmental Pollution Control;
- Health Surveillance of Premises;
- Communicable Diseases Control;
- Vector Control;
- Chemical Safety; and
- Management of Human Remains

The Air Quality Management & Integrated Waste Management functions are also performed by the Section Municipal Health.

EHP's act as public arbiters of EH standards, maintaining close contact with the communities they serve. We act as advisers, educators, consultants, managers and enforcement officers (enforcing health policies), ensuring people are able to live, work & play in safe, healthy environments

#### STAFF & AREA OF SERVICE DELIVERY

EHP's are employed at our Head Office in Beaufort West as well as our Prince Albert & Laingsburg Offices

Services are rendered in ten (10) communities in the Central Karoo Region, namely Murraysburg, Beaufort West, Nelspoort, Merweville, Prince Albert, Leeu-Gamka, Klaarstroom, Prince Albert Road, Laingsburg & Matjiesfontein, as well as in the rural areas of the Beaufort West, Prince Albert & Laingsburg Districts.

#### MHS CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

The effect that climate change will have on human health in South Africa is currently not well quantified. There are, however, indications that the southern African region will be the most impacted in the world.

According to the Climate Change Strategy for the Western Cape, it is envisaged that the Western Cape will become significantly hotter and dryer. This has considerable implications for the Central Karoo District as it is already characterized by very high temperatures and a dry climate.

Our Section's Climate Change Plan form the basis of a series of strategies and programs to curtail global warming and eventual climate change.

#### FACTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

- Over the last 50 years, human activities – particularly the burning of fossil fuels – have released sufficient quantities of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to affect the global climate. The atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased by more than 30% since pre-industrial times, trapping more heat in the lower atmosphere. The resulting changes in the global climate bring a range of risks to health, from deaths in extreme high temperatures to changing patterns of infectious diseases.
- Intense short-term fluctuations in temperature can also seriously affect health – causing heat stress (hyperthermia) or extreme cold (hypothermia) – and lead to increased death rates from heart and respiratory diseases. Recent studies suggest that the record high temperatures in western Europe in the summer of 2003 were associated with a spike of an estimated 70 000 more deaths than the equivalent periods in previous years.
- More variable rainfall patterns are likely to compromise the supply of fresh water. Globally, water scarcity already affects four out of every 10 people. A lack of water and poor water quality can compromise hygiene and health.

This increases the risk of diarrhea, which kills approximately 2.2 million people every year, as well as trachoma (an eye infection that can lead to blindness) and other illnesses.

- Water scarcity encourages people to transport water long distances and store supplies in their homes. This can increase the risk of household water contamination, causing illnesses.
- Climatic conditions affect diseases transmitted through water, and via vectors such as mosquitoes. Climate-sensitive diseases are among the largest global killers. Diarrhea, malaria and protein-energy malnutrition alone caused more than 3 million deaths globally in 2004, with over one third of these deaths occurring in Africa.
- Malnutrition causes millions of deaths each year, from both a lack of sufficient nutrients to sustain life and a resulting vulnerability to infectious diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, and respiratory illnesses. Increasing temperatures on the planet and more variable rainfalls are expected to reduce crop yields in many tropical developing regions, where food security is already a problem.
- Steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or lessen the health impacts of climate change could have positive health effects. For example, promoting the safe use of public transportation and active movement - such as biking or walking as alternatives to using private vehicles - could reduce carbon dioxide emissions and improve public health. They can not only cut traffic injuries, but also air pollution and associated respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Increased levels of physical activity can lower overall mortality rates.

## **UNITE TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AT WORK**

- Do you have a morning hot drink routine? Using a washable mug is an environmentally-friendly alternative to non-biodegradable Styrofoam or plastic cups.

- Leave a cup and re-usable bottle for water at work to eliminate buying drinks, which get served in plastic cups, or bottled water. 80% of plastic bottles are recyclable but only 20% are actually recycled.
- When you need a pad for lists and messages, turn over an old document and write on the back of that instead.
- If there isn't an office recycling system, start one yourself! Recycling our trash actually contributes to reducing global warming emissions. And it is estimated that 75% of what is thrown in the trash could actually be recycled, though currently only 25% is.
- When you must have a paper copy, make sure you default your printer option to use both sides. This is an easy tree-saver!
- Most computer accessories like ink cartridges and CDs and DVD's are made of materials that could be reused. Computer cords and speakers are fairly standardized, meaning they can be used for a variety of computer models and makes.
- Lower your office's carbon footprint by setting computers, monitors, printers, copiers, speakers and other business equipment to their energy saving feature and turning them off at the end of the day. And *plant a tree!*
- Turning off all unnecessary lights, especially in unused offices and conference rooms is an easy way to save energy.
- If you're in search of something to personalize your workspace, look no further than the humble houseplant. Houseplants are good for the environment, because they remove quantities of pollutants present in the air.



**Manager: MHS**

**Mr. G. E. van Zyl**

Tel: 023 – 449 1064 / Cell: 083 654 9688

Email: gerrit@skdm.co.za

## **Env. Health Practitioners**

**Mr. L. Crafford**

Tel: 023 – 449 1062 / Cell: 083 245 2002

Email: leon@skdm.co.za

**Mrs. Z. Pikelela**

Tel: 023 – 023 -449 1060 / Cell: 078 704 8996

Email: zimbinip@skdm.co.za

**Ms. N. Snoek**

Tel: 023 – 449 1000 / Cell: 063 042 0299

Email: nomabongo@skdm.co.za

**Ms. N. Afrika**

Tel: 023 – 449 1000 / Cell: 073 241 2349

Email: nosiphiwo@skdm.co.za

**Mr. S. Maduna**

Tel: 023 – 449 1000 / Cell: 079 675 5273

Email: sipho@skdm.co.za

**Mr. P.J.W. Louw**

Tel: 023 – 5411 320 / Cell: 073 026 8770

Email: pierrel@skdm.co.za

**Mr. A. M. Du Toit**

Tel: 023 – 5511 014 / Cell: 084 580 9818

Email: abri@skdm.co.za

GVZ.