

# Promoting Affordable and Clean Energy in Developing Countries: Paths to Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7

Olusegun Aanuoluwapo Oguntona<sup>1</sup>, Pheeha Lucky Ledwaba<sup>2</sup>, and Clinton Ohis Aigbavboa<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Built Environment, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, Walter Sisulu University, Butterworth, South Africa

<sup>2</sup> cidb Centre of Excellence, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Johannesburg, South Africa  
[architectoguntona12@gmail.com](mailto:architectoguntona12@gmail.com); [oguntona@wsu.ac.za](mailto:oguntona@wsu.ac.za)

## Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 are universal calls to action to address pressing global challenges. These goals provide the most effective, practical and comprehensive pathway for nations to achieve sustainable development's social, economic and environmental dimensions. SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) is one of the 17 agendas known to significantly impact the economic growth of developing countries directly. This study is aimed at evaluating the pathways towards achieving SDG 7 in South Africa, considering its role in enhancing the socioeconomic status of the people. The study utilised the quantitative research methodology. A questionnaire survey developed from secondary data sources was administered to registered construction professionals in the Gauteng province of South Africa. A descriptive statistical analysis was performed on the data collected. The result of the study identified 22 factors as ways of promoting affordable and clean energy. The result indicated that the top five strategies are increasing renewable energy use, investing in clean energy infrastructure, stakeholder involvement, community engagement, and public-private partnerships. The findings established the collaborative role of the government, community, organisations, professionals, and other relevant stakeholders towards achieving the SDGs. The combined efforts of all stakeholders are recommended as they are imperative in ensuring SDG 7 is achieved towards steering the South African construction industry to a greener and more prosperous future.

## Keywords

Built Environment, Renewable Energy, SDG 7, Sustainable Development, South Africa.

## 1. Introduction (Times New Roman 12)

Please insert here a very short Introduction (Times New Roman 10). Please note that the first paragraph is not indented. The first paragraph that follows a table, figure, equation etc. does not have an indent, either. Subsequent paragraphs, however, are indented (here insert the second paragraph).

## 2. Settings or Methods or Materials and Methods or ... etc. (Times New Roman 12)

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## 3. Results (Times New Roman 12)

## 2.

### 3.1 Results (Subsection Sample / Only if needed!) (Times New Roman 10)

Please insert here the Third Section (Times New Roman 10). Please note that the first paragraph of a section or subsection is not indented. The first paragraphs that follows a table, figure, equation etc. does not have an indent, either.

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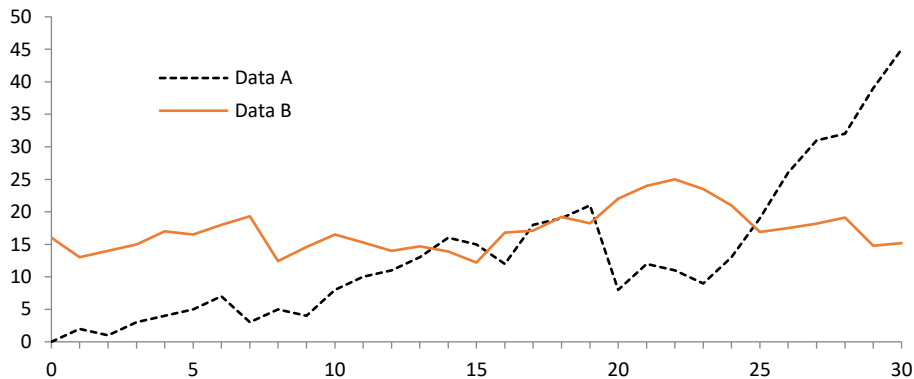
**Table 1.** Table captions should be placed above the tables (Times New Roman 9).

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Displayed equations are centered and set on a separate line.

$$x + y = z \tag{1}$$

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**Fig. 1.** A figure caption is always placed below the illustration. Short captions are centered, while long ones are justified. The macro button chooses the correct format automatically (Times New Roman 9).

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#### **4. Discussion (Times New Roman 12)**

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#### **5. Conclusions (Times New Roman 12)**

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#### **References (Times New Roman 12)**

References should use APA 7<sup>th</sup> Edition Formatting. Refer to [Perdue OWL](#) for more information.

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