



AIDC
Alternative Information
& Development Centre

Vacancy: Cape Town

ENERGY DEMOCRACY PROGRAMME OFFICER

The Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC) is a progressive research, information and campaigning organisation based in Cape Town. AIDC works alongside trade unions, social movements, and other organisations of civil society to advance alternatives to the intersecting economic, social, and ecological crises confronting South Africa and the wider region.

AIDC combines research and political-economy analysis with popular education, advocacy, campaigning, and movement building. A central focus of our work is advancing a just transition and energy democracy: an energy transition that rapidly addresses the climate crisis while expanding decent work, reducing inequality and energy poverty, strengthening public and social ownership, and ensuring that workers and communities have a meaningful role in shaping South Africa's energy future.

The position

AIDC is seeking an Energy Democracy Programme Officer to contribute to its research, campaigning, advocacy, and popular education work on South Africa's energy transition.

The successful candidate will work on the political economy of the energy system and the struggle for a socially and ecologically just transition. This includes questions concerning electricity generation and transmission, Eskom and the restructuring of the electricity sector, renewable energy, energy poverty, electricity tariffs, public and private finance, industrial policy, climate jobs, public and social ownership, and the implications of electricity-market reform.

The Programme Officer will be expected to combine rigorous research and analysis with practical engagement with trade unions, communities, social movements, and civil-society organisations.

Key responsibilities

Research and policy analysis

- Undertake political ecology research on climate change, adaptation, and the just transition.
- Undertake research and political-economy analysis on South Africa's energy system and energy transition.
- Monitor developments in electricity and energy policy, including electricity-sector restructuring, Eskom, transmission expansion, renewable-energy procurement, electricity markets, and tariff reform.
- Produce research reports, briefing papers, policy submissions, articles, and accessible popular materials.

Energy democracy and just transition

- Contribute to the development of AIDC's programme and strategy on energy democracy and a just transition.
- Advance alternatives to energy systems based on commodification, privatisation, and narrow market-based approaches.
- Develop proposals for expanding public ownership and democratic control of energy.
- Contribute to debates about how South Africa can achieve rapid decarbonisation while simultaneously addressing unemployment, inequality, energy poverty, and deindustrialisation.
- Support work on climate jobs, green industrialisation, and the creation of decent employment through the transition.

Movement building and popular education

- Work closely with trade unions, community organisations and social movements involved in energy, climate, and just-transition struggles.
- Design and facilitate workshops and popular-education programmes on energy and climate issues.
- Translate complex energy, economic and policy debates into accessible materials that can be used by activists and communities.
- Support organisations and movements to develop their own perspectives, campaigns, and policy interventions around energy democracy.
- Help strengthen alliances between workers, communities, environmental organisations, and other constituencies affected by the energy transition.

Campaigning and advocacy

- Contribute to AIDC campaigns on energy democracy, climate justice and a just transition.
- Prepare policy submissions and interventions relating to government policy, legislation, regulatory processes, and electricity-sector reform.
- Represent AIDC in relevant civil-society, trade-union, government, and policy forums.
- Build relationships with researchers, activists, trade unions, social movements and organisations working on energy and climate justice.
- Engage with the media and contribute to public debate through articles, interviews, webinars, and public events.

Programme coordination

- Assist with the planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the Energy Democracy programme.
- Coordinate research projects, workshops, seminars, and campaign activities.
- Contribute to donor reporting, funding proposals and programme planning where required.
- Work collaboratively with other AIDC programmes, particularly on areas where energy intersects with economic justice, public finance, industrial policy, climate justice, and movement building.

Required qualifications and experience

- A relevant tertiary qualification in economics, political economy, development studies, public policy, energy studies, environmental studies, or a related field. Equivalent research, activist, or movement experience will also be considered.
- A strong understanding of the political economy of South Africa's energy sector.
- Knowledge of key debates concerning Eskom, renewable energy, electricity-market restructuring, energy poverty, and South Africa's just energy transition.
- A demonstrated commitment to social, economic, and ecological justice.
- Strong research and analytical skills.
- The ability to write clearly for both specialist and non-specialist audiences.
- Experience working with trade unions, social movements, community organisations, or civil-society organisations.
- Strong facilitation, communication, and popular-education skills.
- The ability to work independently as well as collaboratively within a team.
- Good organisational and project-management skills.

Desirable knowledge and experience

- Energy democracy and public or social ownership of energy.
- South Africa's electricity-market reforms and the emerging wholesale electricity market.
- Electricity pricing, tariffs, and the regulation of the electricity sector.
- Eskom, the National Transmission Company of South Africa, and transmission-grid expansion.
- Renewable-energy technologies and energy planning.
- Just Energy Transition Partnership and climate-finance debates.

- Public finance, development finance, and the financing of energy infrastructure.
- Climate jobs and employment impacts of the energy transition.
- Green industrial policy, localisation, and renewable-energy manufacturing.
- Municipal electricity systems and energy poverty.
- Working with organised labour and/or community-based organisations.
- Popular education and activist training.
- Advocacy, campaigning, and policy engagement.

The person we are looking for

AIDC is particularly interested in candidates who are able to move between research, political analysis, and movement work.

The successful candidate should be intellectually curious, politically engaged, and comfortable interrogating dominant approaches to the energy transition. They should be able to analyse technical energy-policy questions while consistently asking broader questions about who owns, controls, finances and benefits from the energy system.

We are looking for someone who understands that the transition is not simply a technological shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. It is also a struggle over ownership, employment, public services, industrial development, inequality, and democratic control over essential infrastructure.

To apply, submit the following to rudayba@maraisbutton.co.za

- CV and a motivation letter (in Word)
- Contact details of three work-related referees.

Closing date for Applications: Sunday 01st November 2026

Contact will only be made with shortlisted candidates.

AIDC is committed to employment equity and to building an organisation that reflects the diversity of the movements and communities with whom we work. Candidates from historically disadvantaged groups are particularly encouraged to apply.