

COMPARISON OF SOUTH AFRICA'S MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES' 2011 ELECTION MANIFESTOS



ANC

The ANC 2011 Election Manifesto was quite thin on environmental and climate change issues. They were however, the only party that addressed food security issues, promoting community and local food gardens. The ANC also made mention of the Green Economy and they plan to create work opportunities and support domestic manufacture of components in the green economy through the installation of solar-water geysers in low cost homes. However no figures or targets were given for this.



DA

The DA 2011 Election Manifesto was the strongest on environmental issues and also gave the most detail on what they plan to do. They were particularly strong on water saving and energy efficiency. The DA supports individuals being able to sell excess power they have generated through wind or solar into the grid – something that Project 90 is calling for.



IFP

There was nothing in the IFP 2011 Election Manifesto about climate change or the environment, but this may be due to the fact that it was very short and more in the style of a poster. I therefore had a look on their website to see if I could find anything on the subject. The IFP wanted to see an immediate shift away from fossil fuels to renewable energy and supports a national environmental protection strategy.



UDM

The UDM had the least information in their Manifesto out of all the parties, only mentioning the integration of proper environmental practice in terms of the daily operation of the party and planning and project management. They also would promote woman and youth in job creating environmental projects.



ACDP

The ACDP had some great ideas in their 2011 Election Manifesto, including holding businesses accountable for pollution, especially acid mine drainage. This party had a fair amount of detail on environmental issues and were very strong on water saving issues. They also supported programmes to allow people to generate their own energy, which they envision would also provide opportunities for income generation.

See below for a detailed comparison of the issues covered in 2011 Election Manifestos.

TOPIC	ANC	DA	IFP	UDM	ACDP
ENERGY	Installation of solar-heater geysers in new low cost houses.	Set targets in new low-cost housing developments for the installation of solar water heaters. Lobby national government	Immediate action would be taken by an IFP government to shift South Africa's reliance on fossil fuels to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass and small-scale		Promote the development of innovative programs to allow people to generate or collect their own energy, providing opportunities for income generation.

		<p>to allow people to sell the excess wind and solar-generated electricity they generate onto the grid for consumption by other users.</p> <p>Install pre-paid electricity meters to assist with reducing and managing consumption.</p>	hydroelectric plants.		<p>Invest in energy-saving by supplementing Eskom rebates with hire financing of energy-saving devices such as solar water heaters which could be included in electricity bills and repaid over a period of time.</p> <p>Encourage alternative energy initiatives in rural communities to fast-track basic services to these areas.</p>
WATER		<p>Conduct an audit of all pipes, dams and other water infrastructure to ascertain the maintenance backlog and develop a plan to eliminate it.</p> <p>Identify businesses and households with excessively high water usage to assist with consumption management.</p> <p>Encourage the installation of water management devices to reduce consumption and detect leaks. Compile drought management plans in areas with poor rainfall.</p> <p>Where feasible, invest in infrastructure that decreases our reliance on traditional sources of water. This includes desalination plants and reclamation works which treat sewerage water to the point.</p> <p>Make sure all municipal facilities are water efficient.</p> <p>Encourage recycling of grey water for irrigation.</p> <p>Make inefficiency expensive through a tariff structure that</p>			<p>Set up committees that will work on reducing wastage of water</p> <p>Implement rainwater-harvesting projects in rural areas and give incentives to residents to implement rainwater-harvesting See that infrastructure such as sewerage treatment plants, keep pace with housing developments to ensure rivers and beaches are not polluted.</p>

		discourages over-consumption of water.			
PUBLIC TRANSPORT		develop a safe, reliable, affordable and integrated public transport system and prioritise investment in public transport	Improved public transport would also improve the quality of life of urban dwellers by reducing traffic, air pollution and road accidents.		Rethink the public transport system and prioritise delivery of safe, reliable and affordable bus and rail network services in rural areas. Promote agricultural development to ensure food security and facilitate the provision of assistance for small and subsistence farmers to become commercially viable.
POLLUTION		Pass and enforce by-laws that control industrial emissions and other forms of pollution.			Hold business accountable for pollution such as acid drainage from mines which negatively impact communities.
WASTE		Identify and manage landfill sites at or near to capacity and set and manage waste reduction targets, including the use of recycling. Encourage cost-effective means of recycling and waste minimisation initiatives, such as the recycling of grey water for irrigation.			Promote a subsidised recycling initiative and embark on extensive education programs on recycling.
GREEN ECONOMY/JOBS	Create work opportunities and support domestic manufacture of components in the green economy through further installation of solar-heater geysers in new low cost houses. Establish rural youth brigades for activities in amongst other issues, environmental protection as part of the Rural Youth Service Corps Programme. The programme will engage up to one million young people over the next few years.	If growth is not environmentally sustainable, it will grind to a halt. The DA is paying special attention to the Green Economy, particularly renewable energy, water- management and pollution reduction.		A UDM council will promote women and youth participation in environmental projects that creates jobs.	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	Municipalities must play their part in the national climate change strategy.	The DA pledges develop special planning frameworks which take into account the need to protect the natural environment.	The responsibility for safeguarding the environment must be shared among all of South Africa's citizens. However, it is at local and provincial government levels in particular that the sustained use of our environment is best	A UDM council will ensure integration of proper environmental practice in terms of its daily operation as well as planning and project management.	

			<p>managed. Human resources in this field must therefore be rapidly developed within traditional structures, local government and provincial legislatures.</p> <p>Supports a national environmental protection strategy which aims to integrate development and conservation priorities to ensure the preservation of biological diversity. They highlighted the importance of land-use planning, environmental impact assessments on all new developments, energy and water conservation, waste management and the protection of endangered land, wildlife and coastal and marine ecosystems.</p> <p>A key component of integrated national environmental management is the establishment of adequately resourced and competent provincial environmental affairs departments.</p>		
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION			The IFP supports the view that it is the responsibility of government at all levels to actively promote environmental education programmes throughout society.		
ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Municipalities must promote local energy saving campaigns.	<p>Move towards the installation of energy efficient lighting (such as LEDs and solar power) in all public spaces.</p> <p>Produce energy efficiency plans with targets to minimise energy usage within official buildings and public spaces.</p> <p>Conduct energy audits of</p>			

		<p>municipal buildings and retrofit municipal buildings to reduce usage of energy from fossil fuel sources.</p> <p>Make sure all municipal facilities are energy efficient.</p> <p>Make inefficiency expensive through a tariff structure that discourages over-consumption of electricity.</p>			
FOOD SECURITY	<p>Establish community and village markets as a way of ensuring food security while improving household and community income as well as expand home, community and institutional food gardens as means of further enhancing food security and enhancing sustainable livelihoods.</p>				