

SAPVIA WORKING GROUPS

Advancing Solar PV in South Africa



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About The Working Groups

The South African Photovoltaic Industry Association (SAPVIA) is committed to advancing solar PV in South Africa by fostering collaboration, advocating for policy improvements, and driving industry-wide best practices. One of the key ways to achieve this is through Working Groups, which bring together experts, industry leaders, and stakeholders to address challenges, develop solutions, and create opportunities for growth.

Working Groups serve as specialised platforms where professionals from across the PV value chain can exchange insights, engage with policymakers, and contribute to the development of regulations and standards. Each group focuses on a critical aspect of the industry, from grid access and manufacturing to residential PV solutions, skills development, gender diversity, and environmental impact.

By participating in a Working Group, members gain access to:

- Exclusive industry insights on emerging trends, regulations, and market dynamics.
- Networking opportunities with key stakeholders, decision-makers, and fellow industry professionals.
- Influence on policy and regulation, ensuring that the solar PV sector continues to grow in a sustainable and inclusive manner.
- Collaboration on solutions to technical, financial, and operational challenges affecting the industry.

SAPVIA believes that through collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and proactive engagement, can drive solar PV forward and support South Africa's transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future. Whether you are a manufacturer, installer, developer, financial institution, policymaker, or technical expert, there is a Working Group suited to your expertise and interests.

Distributed Generation (DG) Working Group

Supporting South Africa's Energy Independence

DGWWG focuses on embedded generation, virtual wheeling, and battery integration — the future of power generation for mines, businesses, and municipalities.

Our Mission

To remove barriers to decentralised energy while influencing frameworks that support reliable and flexible power supply.

Focus Areas

- **Embedded Projects:** SCG use of system approvals, reverse feed tariffs, PPA structures.
- **Wheeled Projects:** Bilateral and virtual wheeling frameworks, municipal wheeling structures.
- **Regulatory and Policy Engagement:** Stakeholder engagement and policy tracking.
- **Technical Workstream:** Grid code compliance, battery solutions, municipal approvals.

Why Join the EWG?

- Be part of future-facing policy design.
- Network with municipalities, mines, and large energy buyers.
- Influence how decentralised energy is scaled and governed.

Who Should Join?

- Energy buyers
- Project developers
- Municipalities
- Financiers
- Engineers
- Legal professionals



Environmental Working Group

Empowering Renewable Energy Development Through Collaboration

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) is a dynamic platform under SAPVIA that brings together industry professionals, developers, and stakeholders to address environmental, regulatory, and compliance challenges in the renewable energy sector.

Our Mission

To streamline processes, share knowledge, and advocate for solutions that support the growth of renewable energy projects in South Africa.

Focus Areas

- **Permitting and Licensing.**
- **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) education.**
- **End-of-Life Management.**
- **Addressing Faunal Impacts of Renewable Energy Infrastructure**

Why Join?

- Collaborate with leading renewable energy experts
- Influence policy and regulatory processes
- Stay informed on key developments and best practices
- Shape a sustainable future for renewable energy

Who Should Join?

- Environmental specialists
- Compliance officers
- Project managers
- Developers
- Policy analysts
- and anyone passionate about sustainability.



Gender and Economic Development Working Group

Ensuring Equity is Central to Energy Transition

This group integrates gender and economic transformation into SAPVIA's mission, ensuring that growth is inclusive, sustainable, and empowering for underrepresented groups.

Our Mission

To create an inclusive renewable energy ecosystem where women and marginalised communities play an active role in ownership, leadership, and value creation.

Focus Areas

- **Gender Guidelines:** Implement SAPVIA's Gender Guidelines.
- **Female- and Youth-Led Businesses:** Provide support.
- **Financial Inclusion:** Promote access to financial services for SMME's.
- **Digital Transformation:** Enhance literacy and adoption of digital tools.

Why Join?

- Join a community that's changing the face of energy
- Be part of sector-wide advocacy for equity
- Support job creation, empowerment, and representation

Who Should Join?

- SMMEs
- Non-profit organisations
- Transformation specialists
- Policy researchers
- Gender advocates



Grid Access Working Group

Solving the Bottlenecks That Delay Project Connection

The Grid Access Working Group supports IPPs in navigating complex and time-consuming connection processes. It promotes transparency, equitable treatment, and technical clarity.

Our Mission

To reduce uncertainty and inefficiencies in grid access processes, from connection applications to transmission planning.

Focus Areas

- **Distributed Generation Grid Code development.**
- **GCAG Engagements**
- **Eskom Engagement:** Timelines and fees.
- **South African Renewable Energy Grid Survey (SAREGS).**

Why Join?

- Get your voice heard in critical Eskom conversations
- Learn from peer experiences
- Access up-to-date technical and regulatory information

Who Should Join?

- IPP developers
- Engineers
- Legal teams
- Transmission planners
- Energy consultants



Manufacturing Working Group

Boosting Local Industry and Creating Green Jobs

This group helps promote South African manufacturing capabilities in the PV sector and strengthens the ecosystem of local service providers. It also plays a pivotal role in localisation policy development.

Our Mission

To expand the role of local production and services in the solar value chain — reducing reliance on imports and creating long-term economic value.

Focus Areas

- **Local Manufacturing:** Map manufacturers and suppliers.
- **Market Intelligence:** Publish demand and pricing data.
- **Localisation Advocacy:** Promote local content targets in procurement policies.

Why Join?

- Network with manufacturers, EPCs, funders, and government departments
- Access exclusive research and policy roundtables
- Play a role in expanding South Africa's green economy.

Who Should Join?

- Component manufacturers
- Logistics providers
- EPCs
- Investors
- Business development agencies



Residential PV Working Group

Unlocking the Rooftop Solar Boom Responsibly

This group is laser-focused on enabling growth in the residential solar market while ensuring consumer protection, product quality, and regulatory clarity. It's where standards meet scale.

Our Mission

To support a fair, transparent, and well-regulated residential PV market that empowers homeowners and protects the integrity of the sector.

Focus Areas

- **Tariffs Structure Review**
- **FAQ & Risk Framework:** Promote quality assurance.
- **Municipal SSEG Approval:** Develop frameworks.

Why Join?

- Influence how the residential sector is regulated
- Protect your brand and improve consumer trust
- Collaborate on standard-setting with public and private entities

Who Should Join?

- Residential solar companies,
- Municipalities
- Regulatory bodies
- Consumer watchdogs
- Civic tech groups



Skills for PV Working Group



Preparing the Workforce to Meet Solar Demand

South Africa's renewable energy future hinges on the availability of a trained, competent workforce. The Skills for PV Working Group brings together employers, training providers, and regulators to align national training infrastructure with real industry needs.

Our Mission

To build and maintain a pipeline of qualified professionals and artisans in the solar PV sector, ensuring the industry's growth is inclusive, professional, and sustainable.

Focus Areas

- **Power Up Platform:** Support training and jobs
- **Employability Barriers:** Address challenges
- **Skills Development:** Create tailored programs for the PV industry

Why Join?

- Influence the national training framework for solar
- Collaborate on content development and certifications
- Bridge the gap between skills demand and supply

Who Should Join?

- HR leaders
- Education institutions
- Youth development NGOs
- PV installers
- Quality assurance providers



Battery Energy Storage Systems Working Group

Building a Skilled, Safe, and Future-Ready Workforce for Battery Energy Storage Systems

South Africa's renewable energy transition increasingly depends on the rapid deployment and integration of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). The BESS Working Group brings together industry stakeholders, training providers, regulators, and technology partners to align skills development with the growing needs of the energy storage sector.

Our Mission

To build and sustain a pipeline of qualified professionals and artisans in the Battery Energy Storage sector, ensuring safe deployment, reliable operation, and long-term industry growth that supports a resilient and flexible energy system.

Focus Areas

- **Energy Storage Skills Development:** Develop targeted training pathways for BESS technicians, engineers, and operators across installation, commissioning, operation, and maintenance.
- **Safety & Compliance:** Strengthen competency in electrical safety, fire risk management, and adherence to evolving national and international storage and grid integration standards.
- **Industry-Aligned Training:** Align education, curricula, and certification frameworks with real-world BESS applications across utility-scale, commercial, and hybrid energy systems.
- **Workforce Readiness:** Improve employability by bridging the gap between training provision and industry requirements through practical, job-ready skills development.

Why Join?

- Influence national skills development and training frameworks for BESS
- Collaborate on curriculum design and certification pathways
- Help address critical skills shortages in the energy storage sector
- Support safer, more reliable deployment of battery storage technologies

Who Should Join?

- Energy storage project developers and OEMs, battery technology suppliers
- EPCs and electrical contractors
- Training providers and TVET institutions
- Utilities and grid operators, Safety, compliance, and quality assurance specialists



Operation & Maintenance(O&M) Working Group

Strengthening Operational Excellence Across Solar PV and Battery Energy Storage Systems

South Africa's expanding solar PV and Battery Energy Storage (BESS) fleet requires robust, standardised, and secure Operations and Maintenance (O&M) practices to ensure optimal performance, safety, and long-term asset value. The O&M Working Group brings together industry stakeholders to align standards, build technical capacity, and strengthen digital and operational integrity across the sector.

Our Mission

To develop and promote best-practice Operations and Maintenance standards for solar PV and BESS systems, while advancing workforce skills and strengthening cybersecurity and data governance frameworks to ensure reliable, secure, and efficient system performance.

Focus Areas

- **Standardisation of O&M Practices:** Establish consistent and industry-aligned O&M procedures for solar PV and BESS systems to improve reliability, safety, and performance across assets.
- **Skills Development & Training:** Promote targeted training, upskilling, and certification pathways for O&M technicians and professionals to build a competent and future-ready workforce.
- **Cybersecurity & Data Ownership:** Strengthen cybersecurity protocols and define clear data ownership, access, and management frameworks to protect operational systems and ensure data integrity.

Why Join?

- Shape national O&M standards for solar PV and BESS systems
- Influence skills development and certification frameworks for O&M personnel
- Contribute to improved asset performance, safety, and reliability
- Help define cybersecurity and data governance standards for the sector

Who Should Join?

- O&M service providers
- Asset owners and operators (solar PV and BESS)
- EPCs and technical service contractors
- Training providers and certification bodies
- Utilities and independent power producers



How to get involved



Review the Working Groups

Explore the details of each working group in this brochure to identify where your skills and interests align.



Complete the Application Form

Please [Click here](#) to join a SAPVIA Working Group.



Get involved

After being added to a group, you'll receive invitations to meetings, webinars, and other events. Engage with other members, share your insights, and contribute to our mission to drive solar PV industry growth.

Please note: Participation in Working Groups is limited to companies that are SAPVIA members in good standing.

Our working groups are committed to driving the growth and sustainability of South Africa's solar PV industry. By collaborating with stakeholders, advocating for favourable policies, and implementing best practices, we aim to foster a future where solar PV plays a pivotal role in South Africa's energy landscape.

Join us and make a lasting impact on South Africa's renewable energy future.

Get in touch with us:



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