



Alleviation of poverty through the provision of local energy services

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Alleviation of Poverty through the Provision of Local Energy Services

Collaboration project



Rough, overall objective:

Arrange for sustainable provision of **affordable energy products** and raised **awareness** of energy–related issues,

to **rural communities** in the Ubuhlebezwe municipality,

through a **network of rural suppliers**,

centred around an **”Integrated Energy Centre”** in the Highflats Multi– Purpose Community Centre (MPCC).



Proposed outline for this meeting:

1. Project presentation (14 slides)
2. Questionnaire for councillors and CDWs about energy situation in wards – 6 questions in English or Zulu (15 minutes)
3. Questions and Answers session – please write down your questions during the presentation!

Collaboration project



Collaboration partners:

- Energy Research Centre (Univ. Cape Town)
- *Parallax (South Africa)* (has supplied solar panels to rural households in this area for six years)
- *Energy research Center of the Netherlands* (ECN)
- UNEP Risoe Centre (Denmark) (URC)

Funders:

- European Union
- SA Department of Minerals and Energy (DME)
- SA Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- Dutch Government
- Danish Government

Key local player! Ubuhlebezwe municipality



APPLES team members here today:

- Zimbili Khumalo (Parallax, South Africa)
- Herman Bos (Parallax, South Africa)
- Tjasa Bole (ECN, Netherlands)
- Sten Dieden (URC, Denmark)

Arrange for sustainable provision of **affordable energy products** and raised **awareness** of energy–related issues,

to **rural communities** in the Ubuhlebezwe municipality,

through a **network of rural suppliers**,

centred around an **”Integrated Energy Centre”** (IeC) in the Highflats Multi– Purpose Community Centre (MPCC).

To serve as a model for other IEC’s in South Africa!

IeCs have been integral to the DMEs strategy to reach rural areas for several years.

Severe time constraints

- The APPLES project was supposed to be implemented from January 2006 to January 2008.
- 2 – year delay in funding (from DST) – implementation phase extended by 6 months, but that's all we have left: $5 \frac{1}{2}$ months from today!
- By the end of July this year, the project partners cannot be involved and have no financial or otherwise claim to the Integrated Energy Centre

Key challenge:

Devise and erect a financially, self-sustainable
"supply chain" for energy products and information in
the short time period left.

Concern 1:

We must leave behind a structure that works
from Day 1 and can **grow** over time

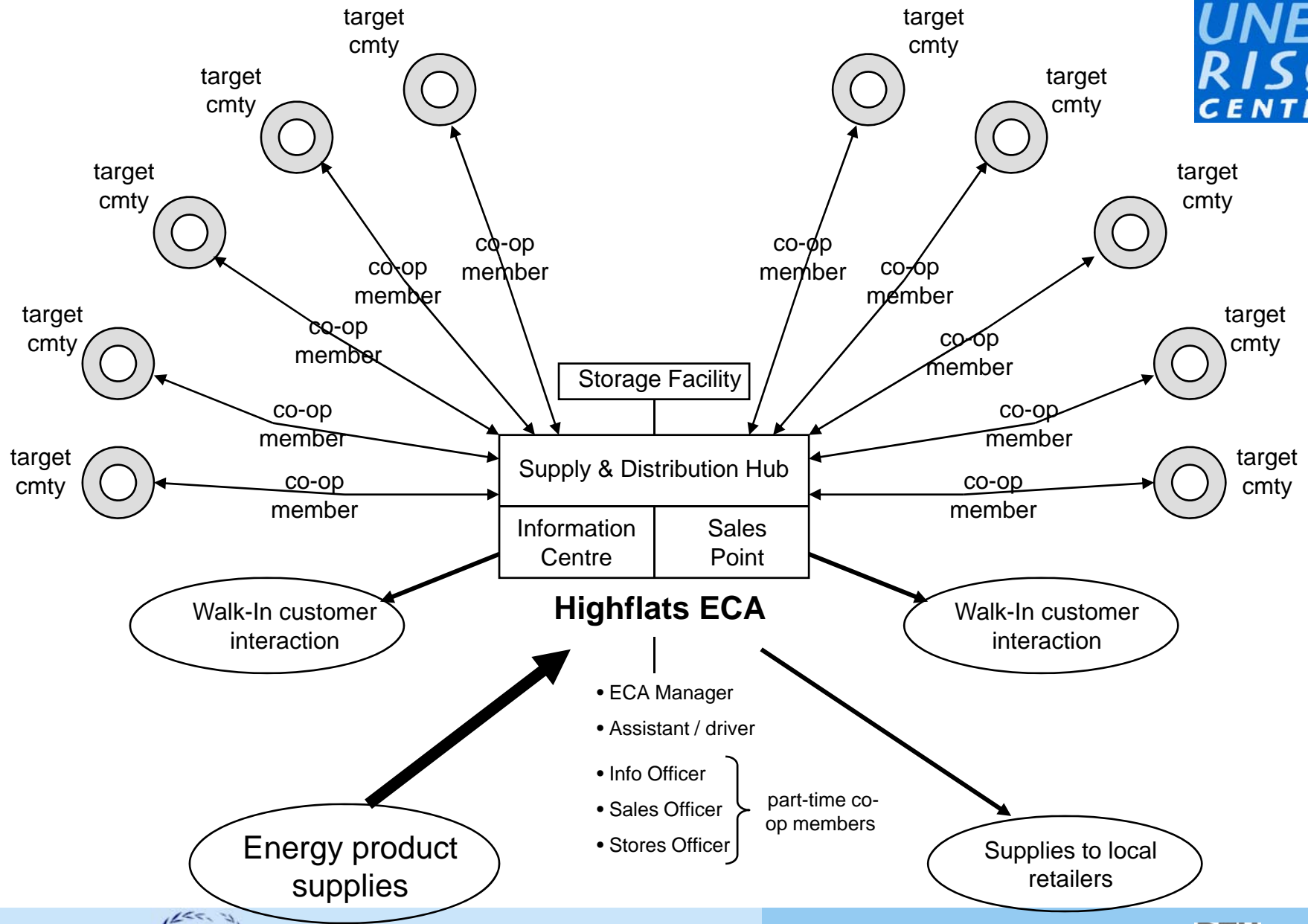
Concern 2: The range of products must be what rural
households need and **can pay for**.

Rather device something "small" that works, than impose
something "grande" which is not founded on local conditions!

- We have a list of conceivable products, based on Needs Assessment focus groups in some of the local areas.
- We have a rough model of what the supply chain could look like.
- We are in the early phase of negotiating reduced prices for certain goods (such as paraffin).
- We are trying to locate external sources of funding (and internal sources, subsidization through FBAE?)
- We are undertaking an informal "market assessment" and we need information on what the market looks like in the various wards.

Some conceivable goods/services

Energy efficient lights	Batteries (including car batteries)
Gel fuel stoves and gel	Paraffin in safety bottles
Coal	Solar cookers
Paraffin and gas heaters/stoves	Battery charging (cell and car)
Cell phone air time	Candles
Solar power sales/installation	LPG
Tokens for pre paid electricity	Public telephone facilities
Wood and charcoal	Gas
Communal TV/radio facilities	Efficient wood stoves



Initial phase

- IEC supply center and sales point run as "secondary" cooperative, with currently existing ("primary") cooperatives as first-stage suppliers in rural areas. [After consultation with Mr Andile Matomane of Ithala.]
- An existing co-op assumes the responsibility for running the IEC
- Other, qualified rural suppliers *must* be allowed to join over time – not necessarily co-ops, but also spaza shops and/or others.

Some remaining concerns

- Transport of goods and services from Highflats to rural suppliers – must be arranged locally!
- Where will the IEC be hosted until the MPCC has been constructed?
- The project needs a local champion
- Registering the co-op and drafting its statute

- We are planning a one–day workshop for today’s audience and potential co–op members within the next six weeks; energy awareness + improved ”business plan”
- First things first; please help us fill in the questionnaire now (15 minutes).
- Please also take a copy with you and consult with your ward committees for more detail – please return at the next workshop!
- Questions and answer session will follow after 15 minutes.