



# Renewable Energy and Mainah Organisation's Vision for Zimbabwe and the Southern Africa Region.

## Contact

Phone      0292560911 / 0787921440



# Introduction

Mainah Organisation recognizes that renewable energy is pivotal to achieving sustainable development in both Zimbabwe and the wider Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. As the global conversation on climate change, energy security, and environmental sustainability intensifies, it is clear that the future of energy must be green, equitable, and accessible. Our renewable energy initiative, driven by the goal of improving livelihoods and mitigating climate risks, sets a bold vision for transforming energy access and environmental resilience across Southern Africa.

# The Energy Landscape in Zimbabwe and the SADC Region.

Zimbabwe, like many countries in Southern Africa, faces significant energy challenges. Currently, the country relies heavily on fossil fuels such as coal and oil for electricity generation, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbating the impacts of climate change. Meanwhile, large segments of the population, particularly in rural areas, remain without access to reliable energy sources. According to national estimates, only about 44% of Zimbabwe's population has access to electricity, with that number dropping to as low as 19% in rural areas. This disparity in energy access not only hinders economic development but also exacerbates poverty and inequality.

Similarly, across the SADC region, energy insecurity is a major barrier to development. Many member states, including Zimbabwe, face erratic energy supplies, underdeveloped infrastructure, and growing pressure from rising populations. The region's reliance on hydropower also makes it vulnerable to climate-induced droughts, which have become more frequent due to the changing climate. Additionally, reliance on wood for cooking and heating in rural areas leads to deforestation, respiratory diseases, and further environmental degradation.

**It is against this backdrop that Mainah Organisation's renewable energy program seeks to provide sustainable, decentralized, and inclusive energy solutions that can drive development, reduce poverty, and promote environmental stewardship.**

# Mainah Organisation's Renewable Energy Strategy

Our renewable energy strategy is built on four foundational pillars: clean energy access, climate resilience, economic development, and environmental protection. Through these pillars, we aim to create a future where renewable energy drives social and economic transformation in Zimbabwe and the SADC region. Below, we explore in detail the work Mainah Organisation is committed to in pursuit of these goals.

## 1. Expanding Access to Clean, Renewable Energy

One of the central goals of our renewable energy program is to expand access to clean, renewable energy for underserved communities, particularly those in rural and marginalized areas. In Zimbabwe, rural households rely heavily on traditional fuels like firewood for cooking and heating. This not only contributes to deforestation but also has severe health impacts, particularly for women and children who are disproportionately affected by indoor air pollution.

Mainah Organisation seeks to introduce renewable energy technologies, such as solar home systems, biogas digesters, and solar-powered irrigation systems, to provide a clean alternative to traditional fuels. These technologies not only reduce dependence on wood and charcoal but also offer affordable, sustainable solutions that can improve living conditions and health outcomes.

By focusing on decentralized energy solutions, we can address energy poverty and improve access to electricity in rural areas where the national grid is often unavailable or unreliable. Our goal is to work closely with local communities, providing the training and technical support needed to operate and maintain these systems, ensuring long-term sustainability. We believe that through partnerships with local governments, NGOs, and international donors, we can scale up these efforts to reach thousands of households across Zimbabwe and beyond.

## 2. Promoting Climate Resilience through Renewable Energy

The impacts of climate change are already being felt across Zimbabwe and Southern Africa, with rising temperatures, more frequent droughts, and unpredictable rainfall patterns threatening agricultural productivity and food security. In this context, renewable energy can play a key role in building climate resilience, particularly for smallholder farmers who depend on reliable energy to power irrigation systems, storage facilities, and processing equipment.

Mainah Organisation is committed to promoting climate-smart agricultural practices through the use of renewable energy. By integrating solar-powered irrigation systems and energy-efficient technologies, we aim to help farmers adapt to the changing climate while increasing agricultural productivity. Solar energy can provide a reliable and affordable source of power to irrigate crops, reducing the vulnerability of farmers to erratic rainfall and droughts.

In addition to agriculture, we are exploring the potential of mini-grid systems to provide renewable energy to entire communities, particularly in areas that are prone to drought or flooding. These mini-grids, powered by solar, wind, or hydro, can provide reliable electricity for households, schools, healthcare centers, and local businesses. This not only improves access to essential services but also contributes to community resilience by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and centralized energy infrastructure, which can be vulnerable to climate shocks.

### **3. Driving Economic Development through Renewable Energy**

Access to energy is a critical enabler of economic development. In Zimbabwe and across the SADC region, a lack of reliable and affordable energy limits the ability of businesses to operate efficiently, stifles entrepreneurship, and inhibits job creation. Through our renewable energy program, Mainah Organisation aims to create opportunities for economic growth and employment, particularly for women and youth who are often left behind in the formal economy.

One of our key initiatives is to promote renewable energy entrepreneurship. By providing training and capacity-building programs, we seek to empower local entrepreneurs to develop and run their own renewable energy businesses, whether that's in the installation of solar systems, the production of biogas, or the maintenance of mini-grid infrastructure. We believe that by nurturing a new generation of renewable energy entrepreneurs, we can drive local economic development and create green jobs that support both individual livelihoods and community growth.

In addition, renewable energy can contribute to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in rural areas by providing the energy needed for productive activities such as agro-processing, refrigeration, and handicrafts. Through our partnerships with local businesses, we will focus on providing access to energy solutions that can improve productivity and create new income-generating opportunities, helping to lift communities out of poverty.

### **4. Advancing Environmental Stewardship and Reducing Carbon Emissions**

As the world grapples with the challenges of climate change, reducing carbon emissions and transitioning away from fossil fuels is an urgent priority. Mainah Organisation is committed to playing a leading role in the transition to a low-carbon economy in Zimbabwe and the SADC region. By promoting renewable energy technologies, we aim to reduce the region's dependence on coal and other polluting energy sources while contributing to global efforts to combat climate change.

Our work will focus on scaling up the adoption of solar, wind, and hydroelectric power as the backbone of Southern Africa's energy future. By advocating for policies that incentivize investment in renewable energy infrastructure and reduce barriers to entry for renewable energy providers, we hope to accelerate the transition to a cleaner energy mix. Our work in this area will involve close collaboration with policymakers, energy regulators, and development finance institutions to create an enabling environment for renewable energy investment.

Additionally, we will work with communities to promote the importance of environmental stewardship, emphasizing the role that clean energy can play in reducing deforestation, conserving biodiversity, and protecting natural resources. Through education and outreach programs, we will engage local communities in the fight against climate change, raising awareness of the benefits of renewable energy and encouraging the adoption of sustainable practices.

## Collaboration and Partnership for Impact

Mainah Organisation understands that the scale of the challenge requires collaboration at all levels—local, national, and regional. Our work in renewable energy will be underpinned by strong partnerships with governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, and international donors. We believe that by bringing together diverse stakeholders, we can pool resources, knowledge, and expertise to drive transformational change.

In Zimbabwe, we will work closely with the Ministry of Energy and Power Development, as well as other government agencies, to align our initiatives with national energy policies and development goals. At the regional level, we will engage with the SADC Secretariat and other regional bodies to advocate for renewable energy solutions that can address the shared challenges of energy insecurity and climate vulnerability.

Through partnerships with the private sector, we aim to attract investment in renewable energy infrastructure and technology, creating opportunities for job creation and economic growth. Our collaboration with international donors and development agencies will help mobilize the financial resources needed to scale up renewable energy projects across the region.

## Conclusion

Mainah Organisation's renewable energy initiative represents a bold vision for the future of Zimbabwe and the SADC region. By expanding access to clean energy, promoting climate resilience, driving economic development, and advancing environmental stewardship, we aim to create a sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for all. Renewable energy is not just an environmental imperative—it is a powerful tool for transforming lives, reducing poverty, and building a more resilient Southern Africa.

Together, we can harness the power of renewable energy to create a brighter future for the people of Zimbabwe and the entire SADC region.