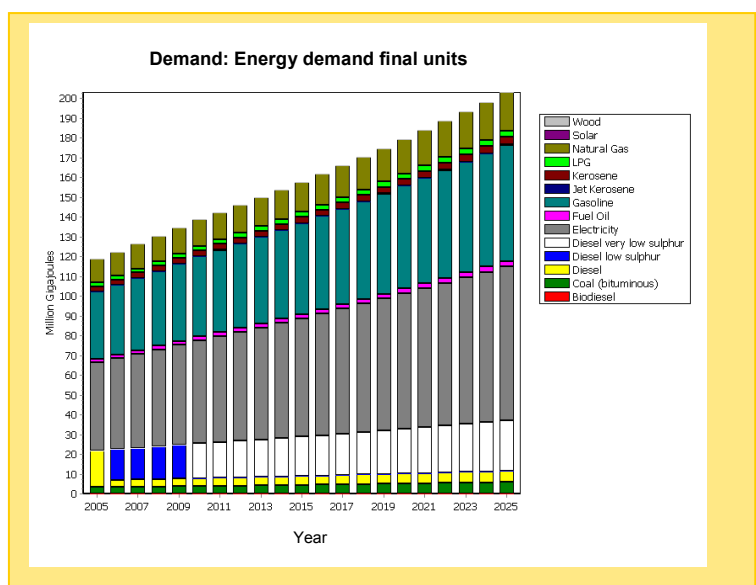


2. Cities as energy leaders

Cities are energy intensive nodes in a country. South Africa's seventeen biggest cities use about 50% of the country's energy. Fifteen municipalities recently studied (shown on the map alongside) use about 40% of the country's energy, yet occupy only 3% of the land area. Cities have an important role to play in the shift to a more sustainable energy picture in South Africa. This is all the more pertinent given the high rates of urbanization and population growth in many of our cities.



Modeling projections show us that unsustainable increases (a doubling of energy consumption) in city energy use are expected under the 'Business-as-usual' scenario. The projection alongside is for one of the larger cities in the country. The expense and emissions associated with these increases comprise burdens which will not be tolerable in the future.



City authorities have a much greater influence over energy use patterns within their boundaries than is often realized. This is through:

- Building regulations
- Urban layout
- Transport planning
- Bylaws
- Standards & codes
- Air quality control measures
- Electrification

If the country is to move towards more sustainable energy paths, cities will be essential partners in this process. Achieving the targets set by national government, for example around energy efficiency, will be largely reliant on the actions of cities.

To download the State of Energy in SA Cities Report, go to www.sustainable.org.za