



## **Minutes of Physical Meeting for Local Stakeholder Consultation**

**Title:** Production of Biomass Briquettes for Energy Purposes in South Africa

**Date:** 25/07/2025

**Location:** Southbroom Golf Club

**Facilitator:** Lindsay Hopkins

**Partners:** Ground Greens

### **1. Welcome and Project Overview**

Lindsay Hopkins welcomed all participants and introduced the PoA and real case VPA that is biomass briquettes project, which aims to provide a sustainable and affordable alternative to coal and heavy fuel oils through the use of agricultural and organic waste. She emphasized the project's environmental and socio-economic benefits, including:

- Reduction of unmanaged biowaste and associated methane emissions.
- Promotion of clean energy adoption in industrial manufacturing.
- Creation of local job opportunities.
- Utilization of mechanical crushing and shredding technology to limit heavy machinery use.
- Generation of carbon credits to support project financing and maintain cost affordability.

The PoA and VPA are being implemented in partnership with Ground Greens, with strong backing from EcoLinks, an organization focused on long-term societal impact.

### **2. Grievance Mechanism and Stakeholder Introductions**

Lindsay presented the project's grievance redress mechanism as part of the stakeholder engagement process, encouraging open dialogue and feedback. Key contributors introduced during this session included:

- Stel (MacEden)
- Sean (South Green Properties)
- Stanley Phillipson (joining remotely from South Korea)

Lindsay also shared her personal motivation, drawing from her prior experience in combating plastic pollution and food waste, reiterating the project's aim to build a circular economy while reducing fossil fuel dependence.

### **3. Waste Material Discussion: SA Pecan Facility**

Melissa du Toit and Stefan (SA Pecan) raised concerns about waste generated at their pecan processing facility. They outlined the types of byproducts available, such as pecan shells, leaves,



and other debris, and inquired about the potential for these materials to be used in the briquette production process.

Lindsay responded positively, noting the importance of sourcing locally available waste to reduce transportation and logistical expenses. She confirmed that the project team is open to collaborative arrangements for waste handling and supply.

#### **4. Briquette Production Process and Offtake Agreements**

Discussions continued around the briquetting process. Lindsay clarified that material grinding and blending would be conducted at the project facility to meet fuel specifications.

Stanley Phillipson emphasized the critical role of carbon finance in supporting the economic viability of the project. He explained that income from carbon credits will facilitate free waste collection services and help maintain competitive briquette pricing.

The team also underlined the importance of establishing offtake agreements with industrial users to ensure sustained demand and long-term project success.

#### **5. Ecolinks Partnership and Closing Remarks**

Lindsay spoke about the strategic partnership with Ecolinks, highlighting their extensive experience across Africa and their commitment to impactful and inclusive environmental solutions.

As part of next steps, the group agreed to distribute grievance questionnaires to collect feedback and address any community concerns regarding the project.

Stanley, currently abroad, expressed his intention to visit the project site in South Africa soon to support ongoing coordination efforts.

#### **Key Questions Raised**

- What types of agricultural/organic waste are acceptable for briquette production?
- What is the expected implementation timeline for the project?
- How will the project ensure regular offtake and long-term economic viability?

#### **Conclusion**

The meeting concluded with appreciation for all stakeholders' engagement and inputs. The EcoLinks team reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, collaboration, and delivering impactful solutions for clean energy and waste management in South Africa.