

Intervention Brief

The Alternative Service Delivery Unit

The Alternative Service Delivery Unit (ASDU) has been established to design, facilitate and manage the provision of energy services to unserved and unserviceable communities, on behalf of relevant stakeholders. ASDU applies an adaptive co-design framework to facilitate community led energy provision. The ASDU partnership model is built on three interrelated fundamentals of modern service delivery - social inclusion/mobilisation, customised technical design and financial sustainability. ASDU is being implemented by the GreenCape Sector Development Agency (GreenCape) and is directed by GreenCape's institutional identity, governance, standards and compliance frameworks.

The ASDU is currently active on three live sites, one of which is Freedom Farm. For this community, we have completed an in-depth enumeration exercise and engaged in co-design sessions to build our understanding of their community and to help us design their service delivery needs.

Settlement information

Freedom Farm is located on the corner of Robert Sobukwe Road and Stellenbosch Arterial Road in Cape Town, on land belonging to the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) and the Municipality of Cape Town. Freedom Farm is home to close to 2000 people. Residents have been living in the area for as long as 30 years, with the average resident having lived in Freedom Farm for 12 years. There is no formal electricity in this settlement and limited communal water points. The unemployment rate in the area is close to 65% and more than 50% of school age children (0-18 years) are not in school.

Key components	Detail
Name	Freedom Farm
Number of households	638
Average household size	3.05
Percentage employed	29%
Average income per month	R600 – R1700
Average expenses per month per household	R1200
Energy needs	R40 – R100
Transport	R120
Cellphone	R35
Food	R510
Clothing	R370
Average home structure type	Informal; 12 m ² ; 2 rooms made from zinc
Common appliance use	Cellphone charger; kettle; TV
Willingness to pay for alternative services	

GreenCape Sector Development Agency

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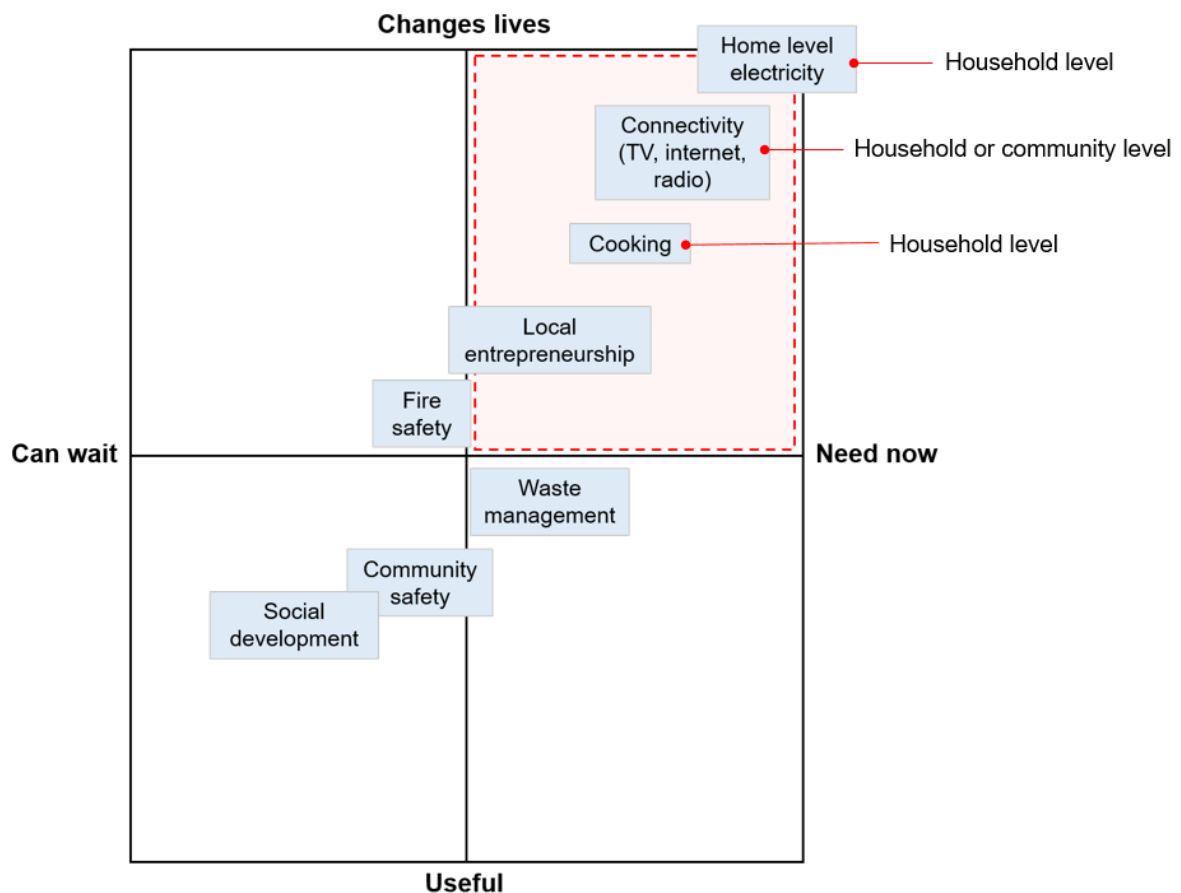
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Company Registration No. 2012/039750/08

Refer to the GreenCape website for director details

Water and sanitation	No
Energy	Yes (R100)
Waste	No
Main sources of energy	
Heating	Paraffin; wood; gas
Cooking	Gas; paraffin; wood
Lighting	Candles; paraffin; informal electricity

Expected results: Insights from co-design with community



The community leadership of Freedom Farm, with the support and on behalf of their community, prioritised the following three key issues:

- Home-level electricity (internal lights etc. in individual homes).
- Connectivity (the ability to connect to the internet – potentially community-level; and to watch television and listen to the radio – household level); and
- Household level safe cooking (currently dominated by gas)

Willingness to pay for a service: The communities are willing to pay for safe, reliable and affordable services up to R100 per month, with the intention of owning the system at the end of the contract. The willingness to pay for a service is a trend we are observing in all of the communities we are working in, however, the capacity to pay is different for each one.

Level of service: Most of the issues that were prioritized can be solved on an individual household level. This eliminates certain types of interventions; or requires the combination of different types of services and business models for success.

Most valuable appliances to be powered: Fridge, TV, lights, cellphone chargers; kettle; stove.

Relocation: When moving from an un-electrified area to an electrified area, the business case for off-grid alternative service provision decreases. The question of the transferability of these interventions to the new site, if necessary, needs to be addressed.