

Sitari Village Mall now running entirely on wind and solar energy

The Shoprite Group has announced that Checkers Sitari and the entire Sitari Village Mall located close to Somerset West, Cape Town have become South Africa's first premium supermarket and shopping centre to run entirely off renewable energy from wind and solar sources.



Source: Supplied

Last year, the Shoprite Group, which owns the Sitari Village Mall, doubled its solar capacity and announced its intention to power 25% of operations with renewable energy. The Group has committed to procuring 434,000 MWh of renewable energy a year from a specialist energy trader through its renewable energy procurement project.

Enabling Checkers Sitari to run entirely off renewable energy is the result of a 635kWp rooftop solar PV installation and an agreement with Eskom's Renewable Energy Tariff (RET) programme, which allows customers to source up to 100% of their electricity from renewable resources.

The Sitari Village Mall, with Checkers as anchor tenant, will generate 35% of its electricity from its rooftop solar PV system. The remaining 65% - 1,752 MWh of renewable energy – will be sourced from Eskom's wind plant via the RET programme. This is enough to power the entire centre entirely on renewables.

This initiative comes as Checkers launches its first environmental campaign to drive further awareness and dialogue on this issue of sustainability. As part of the retailer's commitment to "making better choices for the planet and changing its business for good", some of these efforts include:

- Recycling tons of cardboard and plastic,
- Using recycled content in packaging,
- Reducing food and plastic waste,
- Sourcing products with sustainably sourced ingredients, and
- Increasingly using renewable electricity.



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Climate change strategy

"The commitment to renewable energy is part of Checkers' wider climate change strategy, which acknowledges that climate change will, directly and indirectly, impact our business and the communities we are a part of. Therefore, we commit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, continuously improve energy efficiency, and strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of our operations and that of our communities," says Shoprite Group sustainability manager Sanjeev Raghubir.

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