Who is the SDCEA?

The SDCEA is a non-governmental coalition of 16 community and environmental organisations concerned with environmental justice and sustainable development in south Durban and eThekwini (the broader Durban municipal area). The SDCEA was launched in 1995 to unite members in a common struggle for a healthy living environment and environmentally sustainable and socially just development in south Durban.

South Durban is home to approximately half a million people and is also the location of South Africa’s largest chemical industry cluster including 2 major oil refineries Engen and Sapref, 2 big paper mills such as Mondi and Sappi Saicorr as well as the transport infrastructure associated with Africa’s largest port.
WHAT DOES SDCEA DO FOR THE COMMUNITIES

- INFORMATION DISSEMINATION THROUGH:
  - GIS Mapping of South Durban
  - Community newsletters
  - Books & reports about Industry and the effects they have on people
  - Health study publication
  - Distribution of posters & pamphlets
  - Environmental educational material
  - Talks at educational institutions
WHAT DOES SDCEA DO FOR SOUTH DURBAN?

- Community Empowerment through:
  - Regular workshops to create awareness
  - Petitions, protests & marches
  - Beach clean-ups and other projects
  - School projects engaging youth
  - Toxic tours to teach people about the situation in South Durban
  - Bucket brigade monitoring air quality with community members
HOLDING CORPORATES ACCOUNTABLE

- Independent Watch through:
  - Mitigation of unresolved issues
  - Legal action on selected cases
  - Press release to media
  - Analysis of information released by industry and data produced by Government
  - Hot spot surveys and public questionnaires
  - Follow-up on industry statements
HOLDING GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE

- Civil consultant through:
- Medium for government & consultants to communicate with communities
- Advice offered to members of the public who are suffering
- International solidarity and sharing of knowledge
- Fight for Human Rights
ENGEN - FCCU
FIRE AT ENGEN REFINERY – NOVEMBER 2007
SAPREF PLANT ON THE 28/10/2006
Fire at Engen – 10/10/2011
AGONY OF THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH DURBAN

- JODACHE NAIDOO: 4, has stomach cancer.
- SADÉ SCHWARTZ: 13, being treated for brain cancer.
- NATHANAEL BEDESSY: 3, died last year from leukaemia.
- TASLEEM OMAR: 3, sick with leukaemia.
MORE SUFFERING IN SOUTH DURBAN...

“When we breathe the air of freedom we do not wish to choke on hidden fumes”

Judge Albie Sachs
Taking samples with buckets can get your community valuable information about what's in the air that you're breathing. But how do you know what the levels of chemicals in your air mean to your health?

One way of interpreting monitoring results—from either bucket samples or monitoring done by agencies—is to compare them to what we call "levels of concern".
SOUTH DURBAN COMMUNITY SUPPORTS PROTESTS TO ADDRESS POLLUTION
SDCEA’s involvement in climate change advocacy

Climate change book launch – February 2009

Climate change and poverty hearing – August 2009

Build up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, COP 15 in Denmark

7th Dec 09 – Video screening (The story of stuff and carbon trading)

9th Dec 09 – Picket outside Sapref, Engen and Mondi refineries

12th Dec 09 – Global day of action Youth Rally

12th Dec 09 – Candlelight vigil outside Engen refinery

14th Dec 09 – Press briefing – The World Bank and Eskom: Banking on climate destruction

Attending COP 15 in Copenhagen – December 2009

Copenhagen review workshop – February 2010

Mobilising for COP 17 in Durban
Kids painted banners and t-shirts with messages to President Jacob Zuma

Protest outside Mondi paper mill

Global day of action, Youth Rally
Stories from South Durban

Nonhlanhla Mthembu has serious asthma

Patience Green has a son and grandson with chronic breathing problems
FARMERS

- Farmed near Durban Airport since 1976
- March 2007, March & June 2008 faced financial ruin
- Water resource is compromised. In May 2010, water from the canal had dried up because of warmer conditions experienced leading to farmers having to dig up bore holes. Usually the bore hole water resource is used in September.
- Water scarcity leads to farmers planting crops that require less water like parsley, thyme, spinach and coriander
- Flooding has led to loss of newly planted crops
FISHERMAN

• Fishing off the harbour since
  Move to different areas along the
  harbour due to scarcity of species
  Time of day has also been moved,
  from mornings to the evenings
  Strong winds influence movement
  of the fish

Warmer ocean current – usual
catch of fish does not take place
Fishermen’s involvement with
  government
  Draft policy for the
development of viable
(resilient) small scale fisheries
sector in SA
  Interim relief measure granted
in the Cape and parts of KZN
Climate change is a global problem, yet each one of us has the power to make a difference.
WE CAN’T CHANGE THE WORLD UNLESS WE CHANGE OURSELVES

THANK YOU