CLIMATE METRICS · FREE FACT SHEET

South Africa

Climate & energy fact sheet · Updated 27 November 2026 · climatemetrics.org

The latest available national figures for South Africa, refreshed daily from the World Bank World Development Indicators and Ember electricity data (via Our World in Data). Each figure shows the most recent year published; national statistics usually lag one to three years.

CO2 EMISSIONS (EXCL. LAND USE)

440 Mt

Latest year: 2024 · +40% since 1990

ALL GREENHOUSE GASES (EXCL. LAND USE)

570 Mt CO2e

Latest year: 2024 · +40% since 1990

CO2 PER PERSON

6.9 t

Latest year: 2024 · -11% since 1990

RENEWABLES, SHARE OF FINAL ENERGY USE

9.7%

Latest year: 2021 · +0.7 pts since 2011

WIND, SHARE OF ELECTRICITY

4.7%

Latest year: 2025

SOLAR, SHARE OF ELECTRICITY

8.0%

Latest year: 2025

FOREST AREA, SHARE OF LAND

18.8%

Latest year: 2024 · +2.5 pts since 1990

PM2.5 AIR POLLUTION (ANNUAL MEAN)

27.7 µg/m³

Latest year: 2023 · -2% since 2013

POPULATION

64.7 million

Latest year: 2025 · +59% since 1990

Explore the full South Africa dashboard: climatemetrics.org/south-africa-metrics

Sources and notes

Emissions: World Bank WDI indicators EN.GHG.CO2.MT.CE.AR5 and EN.GHG.ALL.MT.CE.AR5 (megatonnes; greenhouse gases as CO2-equivalent using IPCC AR5 factors), excluding land use, land-use change and forestry. CO2 per person is CO2 divided by population for the same year.

Energy and land: World Bank WDI EG.FEC.RNEW.ZS (renewable share of final energy consumption), AG.LND.FRST.ZS (forest area), EN.ATM.PM25.MC.M3 (PM2.5 exposure), SP.POP.TOTL (population).

Electricity: Ember yearly electricity data, processed by Our World in Data (share-electricity-wind, share-electricity-solar).

Changes compare the latest year with 1990 where available, otherwise with ten years earlier. "pts" means percentage points.

World Bank data: data.worldbank.org **Our World in Data: ourworldindata.org/energy**