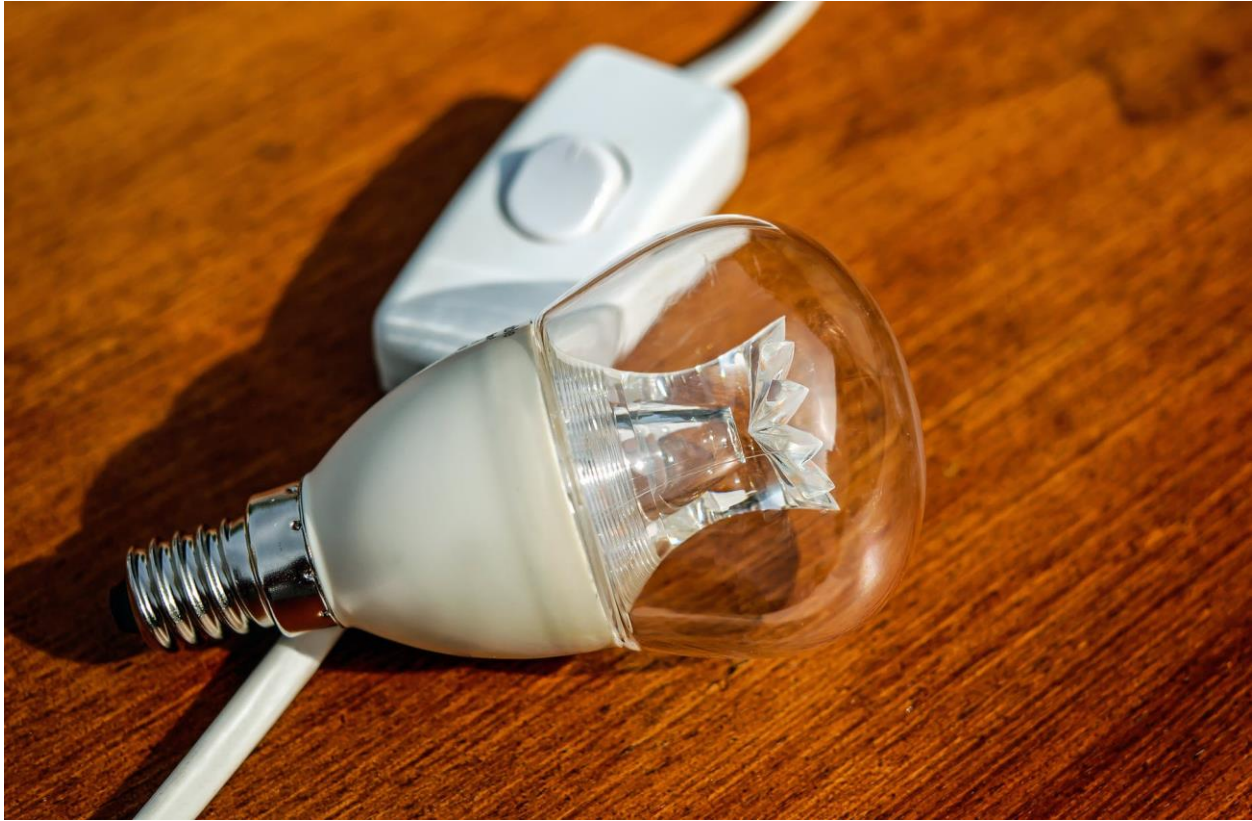


## Natural Resource Preservation Starts at Home



South Africa currently boasts a population of approximately 57.7 million according to Statistics South Africa. At present, an estimated 86% has access to electricity while more than 5 million individuals still do not have access to clean running water. If there are two things that South Africans know all too well, it is load shedding and water shortages. While inherently being a country filled with natural resources, the supply is by no means infinite. In order to minimize interruptions in service delivery and ensure that there will be enough resources available for generations to come, every individual has to take the necessary steps to reduce personal consumption at their homes.

### Use less electricity in your household

During April this year, Eskom was forced to inform the [National Energy Regulator of SA](#) (Nersa) that the coal stocks at 7 of its power stations had dropped to below the minimum level of a 20-day supply. Although there is an increasing number of wind turbines being erected in SA, as much as 89% of South Africa's electricity is generated through coal-fired power stations. In a bid to preserve both the nation's coal reserves as well as reduce the environmental impact of coal-fired power stations, it is essential that electricity use is monitored.

## **Saving water around the home**

Water is without a doubt one of SA's scarcest natural resources with Sputnik Ratau of the [Department of Water and Sanitation](#) stating: "SA continues to be a water-scarce country. Unless and until we have behavioural change that [treats reducing] water consumption as the first major step, SA will continue to be in this difficult situation." In light of the recent water crisis in the Western Cape, it is imperative that everyone does their part to preserve one of our most valuable resources. Even in areas where there aren't formal water restrictions, water should be viewed as the precious natural resource it is. Installing water-saving appliances, harvesting rainwater, and only watering the garden with greywater are just three examples of [the countless water-saving measures](#) that can be implemented in and around the house.

## **How to reduce your electricity consumption at home**

Despite a number of energy-saving initiatives having been implemented in the country over recent years, consumers are still using too much electricity on a daily basis. Small efforts, such as unplugging appliances and chargers when not in use and turning lights off before leaving the house can make a huge difference on your electricity bill at the end of the month. Geysers are some of the biggest users of electricity with their usage amounting to nearly 39% of consumers' monthly energy usage. Consumers are also encouraged to [replace all their fluorescent light bulbs](#) with energy-saving LEDs. This comes after a scheme initiated by Eskom to distribute 10 million energy-saving lamps in all nine provinces by the end of March last year.

Preserving our natural resources is the responsibility of each and every South African. It is only through prudent use that we can ensure that our resources and the rest of the environment remains well-preserved for many generations to come.