

# The Importance of Aligning Skills Development to Support Innovation

A Case of Youth Skills Development and Innovation in Greentech Manufacturing in the Atlantis Special Economic Zone (ASEZ)

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**is a non-profit organisation. It's vision is a thriving, prosperous Africa mobilised by the green economy.**

**GreenCape works with business, government and academia, removing barriers to catalyse the large-scale uptake and spread of economically viable green economy solutions and infrastructure. A non-profit organisation, our vision is a thriving prosperous Africa, mobilised by the green economy**

## GreenCape's focus areas



Sector development



Atlantis SEZ



WISP



Waste



Green finance



Skills



Renewable energy



Energy efficiency



Water



Bioeconomy



Agriculture



Resources

# Enable, identify and support are the key drivers behind skills development

**Enable** the Atlantis community with necessary skills to benefit from increased job opportunities

- Capacity building of youth in Atlantis (IkamvaYouth)
- Pipeline training
- Workforce development, RPL certification
- Tailored & suitable offering



**Identify** new skills required for renewable energy and the green economy as a whole

- SARETEC<sup>1</sup> support
- Wind turbine service technician pilot
- Solar PV in development
- Interim QA mechanism for roof top PV



**Support** the overall green skills development landscape

- Training
- Curriculum development
- Specifically, to provide highly skilled workforce to emerging South African renewable energy industry



# Atlantis Special Economic Zone for Green Technologies

Government's industrial development effort

- Greentech manufacturing hub
- Application approved and zone designated in June 2018
  - Renewable energy technologies
    - Wind turbines, solar panels
  - Insulation and green building material
  - Biofuels
  - Electric vehicles and energy storage
  - Materials recycling
  - Water saving technologies



## Mission statement

- ✓ To facilitate the development of a green technology cluster in Atlantis and to contribute to urban renewal and community upliftment

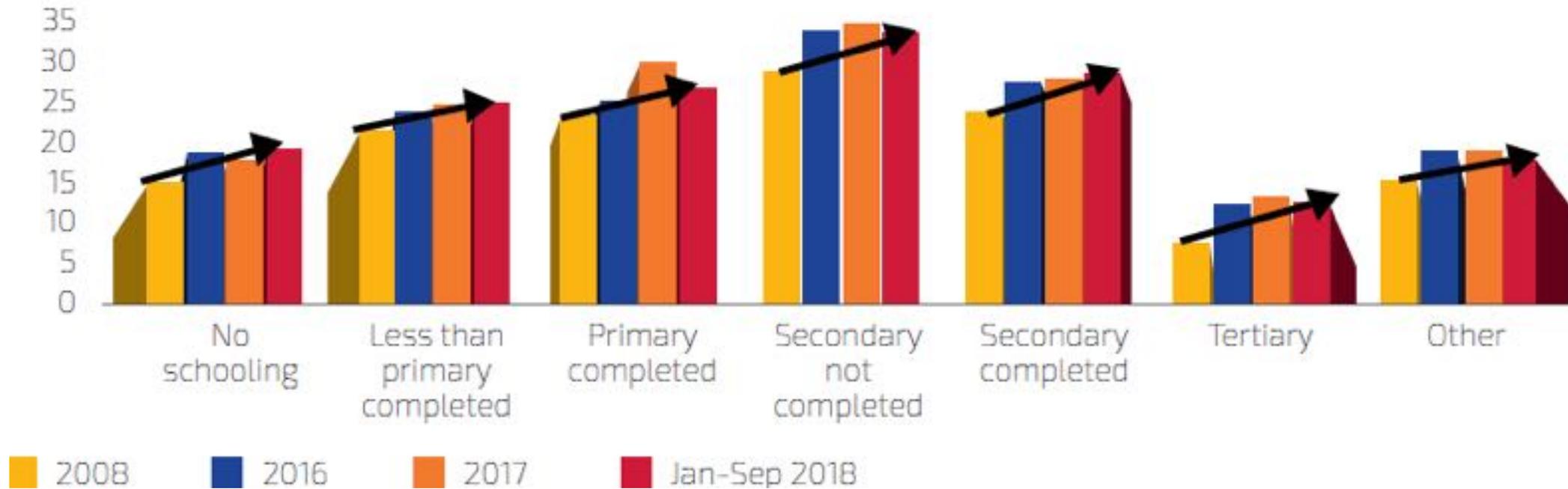
## Goals and Objectives

- ✓ To grow the greentech sector in the Western Cape and South Africa
- ✓ To further the country's objective of realising Atlantis as a key industrial node in South Africa
- ✓ Drive high impact industrialisation in Green Technology



# Education is key to employment opportunities

Unemployment (in %) by education level



# Green economy skills tailored to meet industry demand

SARETEC operational since 2015

- Project lifespans of > 25 years require sufficient operation and maintenance skills



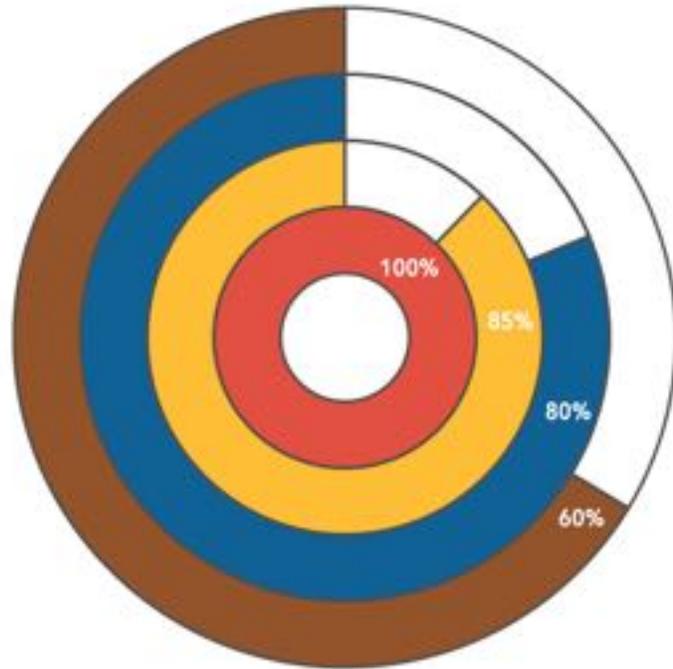
South African Renewable Energy Technology Centre (SARETEC) to provide training for technicians of solar PV and wind turbine facilities in

- installation
- operation and maintenance

## Multi-year tutoring programme

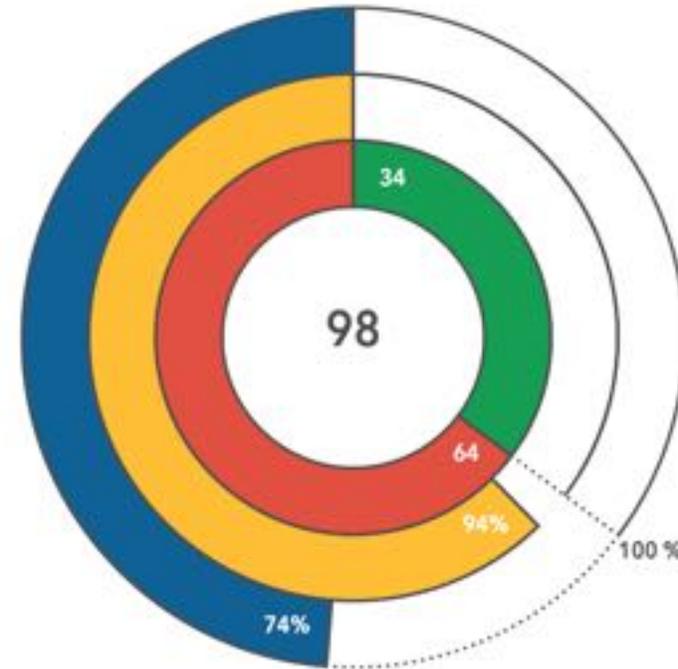


# Impact of the IkamvaYouth programme in Atlantis



National learners participating in the IkamvaYouth Programme 2017

- Grade 12 (Matric)
- Matric pass
- Access to placements
- Post-school placements



Learners participating in the Atlantis IkamvaYouth Programme 2017

- Grade 8 - 11
- Grade 12 (Matric)
- Matric Pass
- Access to placements

## Integrated skills development approach

Networks to support creativity and resilience yielded results

### Satisfying **demand**

Targeted skills interventions for industry

(e.g., improving quality output of college and building foundational skills early)



### Enabling **supply**

Dedicated skills development programmes to build youth creativity, capabilities and resilience

## The Atlantis experience can contribute to learning for other communities

### Lessons learned

**Effective partnerships build resilience**



Partnerships can provide a foundation to empower youth

**Community buy-in is critical**



Community stands together to address societal issues

**Unique challenges based on the local context**



Learner retention



Infrastructure

**Adapt and evolve**



Careful reflection driving positive improvements

# Building future capabilities

## Foundational skills

- Early Childhood Development focused on literacy and numeracy

## Education quality

- Teacher support and training through innovative programmes and continuous development

## Technical skills

- Artisan and technical skills development
- Coding and digital literacy



**Driving skills development through policy**



# Thank You

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