



## POST LEARNING EVENT REPORTING TEMPLATE

As part of eThekweni Municipality's commitment to strengthen our organisation's culture of learning and sharing, this form presents information on a recent out of town trip, visit, learning exchange undertaken by an official from the municipality. This information will be posted on the MILE website ([www.mile.org.za](http://www.mile.org.za)) in the interest of advancing our **KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT** agenda. Thank you for taking the time to complete the form.

### 1. What was the NAME OF THE EVENT?

EPIC-N Strategic Planning Workshop

### 2. The DATE attended:

13/09/2017 to 14/09/2017

### 3. VENUE

(further details on venue)

United State of America, Global Change Research Program, National Coordination Office, 1800 G Street, NW, Suite 9100, Washington, DC 2000

### 4. OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED?

Dr Sean O'Donoghue, Manager: CPB

**5. What area of expertise did the event cover?**

- |                                    |                          |                                       |                                     |                            |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Culture, heritage and sport        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering and the built environment | <input type="checkbox"/>            | IT and Finance             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic development and Tourism   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health and Safety                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | City strategy and planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy and the natural environment | x                        | Good governance                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |                            |                          |

Other: The establishment of research partnerships to support city service delivery and adaptation to climate change.

**6. What was the PURPOSE OF THE EVENT, THE BROAD OBJECTIVES, AND THEMES? Why was it of importance?**

The Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N) systematically matches city and local government needs with the innovation of students and academics to address a broad spectrum of sustainability related issues, with lasting and sustainable impacts for all involved. Colleges and universities paired with local governments can be a powerful force in making cities sustainable, connecting students and faculty to real-world projects that address the pressing needs of local municipalities and communities as they contend with the challenges of becoming more sustainable and resilient and adapting to climate change.

Presently, there are nearly 30 universities in the U.S.A. that are implementing the EPIC model, which has shown itself to be elegantly simple yet powerful and effective in practice, that can be fully customizable to local circumstances around the world. Based on its success in the USA to date and emerging implementations of the model in certain southern African cities, the partners facilitating this training are excited to promote the adoption of this model regionally in urban/local governments and local universities from cities in southern Africa.

OPPORTUNITY: Through the EPIC-N, and with the support of FRACTAL (Future Resilience for African Cities And Lands) members, training on the EPIC model will take place on Saturday, November 18th and Sunday, November 19th, in Cape Town, South Africa, immediately preceding the formal start of the FRACTAL annual meeting.

This training provides a unique opportunity for collaborating pairs of individuals representing municipal governments and nearby universities from cities in southern African countries, to receive training on the EPIC-N model and its implementation. Support provided to selected applicant pairs will cover transportation to and from the training and a per-diem allowance for meals, lodging and incidentals for three days, at the UN rate. Upon completion of the training participants will also be awarded a certificate of training on the EPIC model.

A two day event was convened in Washington by the funders and organisers of the upcoming two day training event to plan out a roadmap of support for the establishment of a network of EPIC partnerships in Southern Africa following the training. Dr O'Donoghue attended as the lead of the Durban Adaptation Charter Hub and Compact approach.

**7. What in your opinion are some of the KEY LEARNINGS that you came away with? In other words, what stood out for you? Were there any "aha!" learning moments that you can share with colleagues? What were some of the KEY OBSERVATIONS that were important or different?**

EPIC partnerships present African cities with a cost effective and efficacious tool for developing the applied knowledge that will inform service delivery in a climate changed world. Having high level participants underscored the importance that is being placed on trans- disciplinary research appropriate for developing cities and academic institutions of the Global South.

**8. As a result of this event, what is the ONE CHANGE that you may consider making backing back at work, if any? What follow ups are envisaged?**

This workshop was successful in that a roadmap for support of African EPIC partnerships has been agreed by the EPIC secretariat and the funding bodies in the room committed to finding the resources to support this initiative. We will use this opportunity to ensure that our DAC Hub and Compact members attend the training event in Cape Town in November, and then establish EPIC partnerships in our respective organisations. We should form a critical mass of partnerships that will drive the establishment of an African secretariat and providing training opportunities to other Southern African organisations to facilitate the roll out of EPIC in cities of this region.

**9. Please indicate details of useful CONTACTS AND NETWORKS that were established during the event?**

Available upon request