

Solar energy fights traffic black outs

West Rand — Nothing is more frustrating than spending hours in traffic when lights are down during power cuts, yet all frustration may end in years to come.

Solar powered traffic lights are being introduced throughout Johannesburg and are intended to keep traffic running smoothly during Eskom's frequent load shedding.

The project, headed by the state-owned Central Energy Fund (CEF), will cost about R200 million to implement.

"This is an urgent intervention to help alleviate the chaos on our roads resulting from power outages, which is impacting negatively on the economy of our country," says chief executive of the CEF group, Mputumi Damane.

The company is working closely with the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA), who will be responsible for installing the energy friendly traffic lights, as well as identifying key locations for their use.

According to head of urban management for Region C, Yolande van Rensburg, the Roode-

poort and the Northside area will not see this new technology as of yet, but says pilot projects are taking place in other Joburg regions.

Damane says the traffic lights will be connected to the national power grid, for instances where an area experiences weeks of cloud cover.

Companies wishing to become involved in the project can email their details to info@savingenergy.co.za. They will be contacted by the National Energy Efficiency Agency (NEEA), a division of the CEF.

