

# **WATERFORD KAMHLABA SOLAR FARM**

## **FUNDING STATEMENT**

**JOURNEY TO 2030 - UNPACKING HOW WE  
AIM TO RAISE \$3MIL**



**WK has embarked on a fundraising campaign to raise E50Mil (\$3Mil) to establish a 1 Megawatt Solar Farm on the school campus. The aim is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.**

The school has 4 Strategic Fundraising Pillars, namely:

- **Scholarships**
- **Sustainability**
- **Infrastructure**
- **IT Connectivity**

### **Waterford Kamhlaba has declared 2024 a Year of Sustainability**

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Following the superb Michael Stern [Lecture](#) on 2 February 2024, delivered by Steve McGuire, WK Eco, Estates Manager, the baton is now in our hands.

Steve McGuire has played his part

Students and Staff have played their part

It is now time for us to play our part

It is imperative that each one of us actively contributes to and champions our shared responsibility for achieving the ambitious goal of Carbon Neutrality by 2030.

Together, we must synergize our efforts to propel us towards the triumphant realization of our ultimate objective: the establishment of a cutting-edge **1 Megawatt Solar Farm**.

Beyond this pivotal project, our commitment extends to embracing and bolstering all facets of sustainability outlined in the school's visionary 5-year strategy. By uniting our strengths, we can forge a sustainable future that not only meets but surpasses our aspirations.

Join us in this transformative journey, where every action becomes a catalyst for positive change and a testament to our unwavering dedication to a greener, more sustainable world.

**E50 Million (approx. US\$3 Mil) is all we need.**

**(E-Emalangi Eswatini Currency)**

I extend this appeal to you as an important partner in our shared commitment to advancing the school's vision.

Your valued support is indispensable in partnering with Waterford Kamhlaba to bring to fruition the crucial funds required to propel WK's Sustainability initiatives into tangible reality. This is no longer a mere aspiration framed in 'maybes' or wishful thinking; it has transformed into an unequivocal 'we have to' imperative. Your active involvement and support will not only contribute to the school's growth but will also be a testament to our collective determination to turn aspirations into impactful actions. Together, let's embrace this call to action and pave the way for a sustainable and thriving future.

## WHY?

>The school's monthly electricity bill at full operational capacity of the school, i.e. during the academic terms is in the thousands of Emalangeni per month!

> UN - SDG 7: Ensure Access To Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy For All.

> Eswatini and the WK learning and residential environment are currently grappling with persistent challenges stemming from issues plaguing external electricity providers. The impact of these challenges is keenly felt as our community encounters, on average, at least two power cuts weekly. These disruptions not only disrupt the daily rhythm of our educational and living spaces but also pose significant hurdles to productivity.

While generators have been installed as a contingency measure, unfortunately, their efficacy is occasionally compromised. The power cuts, at times, extend beyond the capacity of our generators to address promptly, leading to prolonged disruptions. This not only hampers our routine activities but also underscores the urgent need for a more resilient and sustainable energy solution.

In light of these challenges, we recognize the critical importance of seeking innovative and lasting solutions to ensure an uninterrupted and conducive learning and living environment. Your support and collaboration in navigating and mitigating these electricity-related challenges are instrumental in fortifying the resilience of our community. Together, let's work towards an energy infrastructure that aligns with the dynamic needs of our educational and residential spaces, ensuring an uninterrupted and optimal experience for all.

### ITEMISED ACTIVITIES & KEY DELIVERABLES?

According to our projections we aim to deliver the Solar Farm by end 2024 once funding has been secured. However, we have also phased the activities as per the phases below:

**Phase 1** – Solar Panels Installation & Grid Tie System, Change Transformers (by June)  
(2180 Solar Panels installed).

**Phase 2** – Battery Storage Units Construction (by Dec)  
(2 x Inverters)

**Phase 3** – Maintenance & Monitoring (Annually)

#### Phase 3 in detail:

Significantly enhance our monitoring systems and equipment so that we can better track both usage (water, electricity) and production (electricity, water, and biogas from the biodigester). This will include:

- 1.New energy monitoring units at strategic points around campus;
- 2.Additional water usage monitoring units;
- 3.Additional electronic displays around the school showing real-time usage and production, to raise awareness and drive lifestyle changes;

The data collected will both provide insights into the impact of our efforts/highlight areas for improvement and be available to students for in-depth research.

Purchase a new biodigester to:

1. Improve our biogas production and monitoring; and
2. Provide a valuable educational tool.

## IMPACT?

Securing funding will practically demonstrate WK's commitment to environmental sustainability. It will also relieve the school of this gigantic electricity bill enabling the diversion of these funds towards the other 3 pillars.

When school is closed, we plan to empower our surrounding geographical local community with electricity especially neighbourhood care points (NCPs), orphanages and other vulnerable places.

Our overall environmental sustainability programme is very robust and we use it as an educational tool for students - not just at WK, but we would like to share our learnings to other students in Eswatini.

## COST?

The solar farm itself is forecasted at E40 Million due to the massive amount of storage needed. Our ask is E50 Million. As per our 5-year [Strategic Plan](#) rollout, Sustainability is Objective No.7 in a two-fold capacity:

- i) Environment Sustainability
- ii) Financial Sustainability

We are acutely aware that the forecasted amount for establishing the Solar Farm is just the tip of the iceberg. Beneath the surface lie various incidental costs that demand our attention and strategic planning. These encompass critical aspects such as insurance, maintenance, infrastructure rehabilitation, fencing, generators, transformers, and even the construction of roads to accommodate the transportation of heavy machinery up the mountain. In our commitment to Responsible Business practices, we envision hiring temporary manual labor from surrounding communities, fostering a collaborative approach that positively impacts our local environment.

Furthermore, we are dedicated to ensuring the installation of the Solar Farm is carried out by contracted companies that are 100% Emaswati focused. This not only aligns with our vision for sustainability but also ensures that the financial benefits circulate within Eswatini, contributing to the economic empowerment of our local communities.

It's crucial to emphasize that the budget is not merely earmarked for the Solar Farm but also encompasses other impactful sustainability projects, which will be covered by the E10 million. Initiatives, such as the implementation of a new bio-digester, expansion of the permaculture garden, and upgrading of recycling facilities, including greywater recycling, are integral components of our comprehensive roadmap. All of these offer opportunities for experiential learning, particularly in the sciences and maths, but also business and economics.

We intend that experiential learning will not only expand student understanding of their academic subjects but also help drive changes in personal behaviours that will have long lasting effects on the environment.

This holistic approach reflects our commitment to creating a sustainable and resilient environment that extends beyond the Solar Farm, inspired by students to become environmental advocates and leaders, fostering positive change for both our community and the broader Eswatini landscape.

## HOW?

Ideally, we are seeking partners that will make financial donations.

These donations can be in the form of lump sums or even as simple as funding e.g a panel(s). We welcome all donations payable via our banking details below or contact us for alternative online payment options we can share with you.

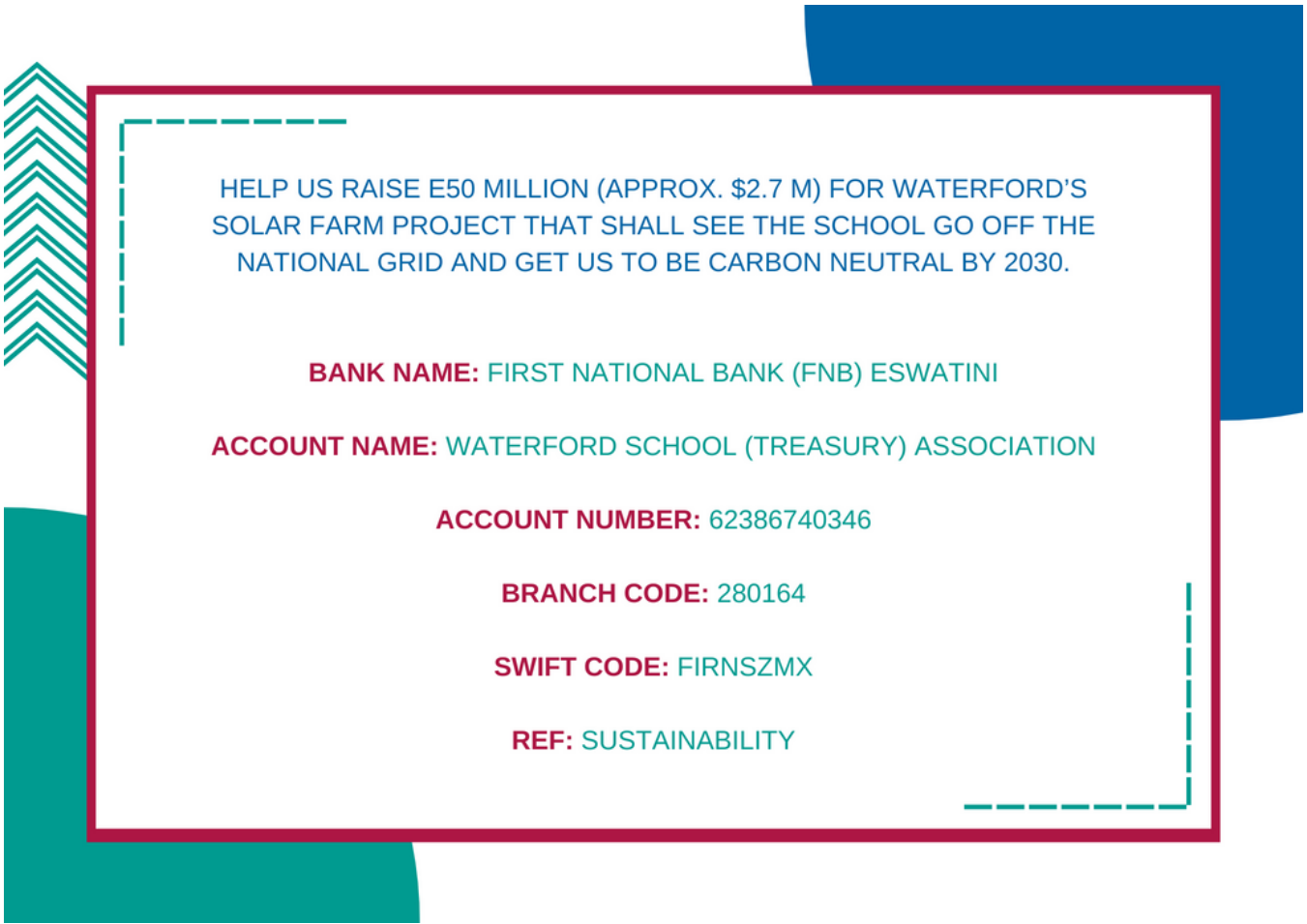
Please note that donations made in the UK, USA and South Africa may qualify for a tax benefit subject to the T & Cs of that respective region.

Debt Finance is the least preferred option we would like to pursue as we aim to reduce costs. Debt would attract interest that could be counterproductive to our efforts of diverting the monthly electricity cost currently incurred to the other 3 pillars. Should we go this route, the 'savings' will be utilized to service the loan over several years which, though having the solar farm up would be great, we would still be in debt. A least favoured scenario.

The establishment of the solar farm is dependent on when we get funding in place. Our hope, however, is to be fully functional as soon as possible, preferably this year.

<https://www.waterford.sz/contribute/gift/>

Please use SUSTAINABILITY as your reference for all donations.



HELP US RAISE E50 MILLION (APPROX. \$2.7 M) FOR WATERFORD'S SOLAR FARM PROJECT THAT SHALL SEE THE SCHOOL GO OFF THE NATIONAL GRID AND GET US TO BE CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030.

**BANK NAME:** FIRST NATIONAL BANK (FNB) ESWATINI

**ACCOUNT NAME:** WATERFORD SCHOOL (TREASURY) ASSOCIATION

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 62386740346

**BRANCH CODE:** 280164

**SWIFT CODE:** FIRNSZMX

**REF:** SUSTAINABILITY

## CONCLUSION?

Thank you for taking the time to read through our costing statement and we invite you to please watch the Michael Stern Lecture here. Be re-inspired as to why we can no longer leave it up to someone else. It is for "our children", of today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

**Celiwe Dlamini**

Advancement Director

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