

**Honourable Mayor, Michael Masina**

**OUR INTENT and MY INVITATION**

**Paris, December 2015**

With the help of my fellow local councillors and senior executive officials I have been working with ICLEI for the past three years to identify and start to implement low-carbon economic development pathways for Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, which for more than a hundred years has been at the centre of South Africa’s coal and steel industries.

We are convinced that our people’s future lies with a low-carbon economy and we are determined to lay the tracks that will help them get there swiftly and successfully.

We are finalising a low carbon position statement which details our strategic commitment to lower carbon development. We have also already identified several projects that are starting to teach us what it means to deliver vital services to low-income communities in ways that reduce carbon emissions and generally lower environmental impact. With every step forward on this journey we realise how far we have to travel, yet our determination is strong and getting stronger as we roll up our sleeves and start work.

I am looking for people and organisations that see the vision we see and can get involved in our journey. We believe we can put to good use any finance, expertise, technological options or hands-on skills that might be available. In particular, organisations and ideas that can help us marry the twin challenges of poverty reduction and lower carbon development, and can engage with and speak the language of industry.

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality has an outstanding reputation for being tightly managed and well governed over many years. When we do things we do them thoroughly and well.

If you think you would like to journey with us, I would be delighted to speak with you!

Sincerely,

**Michael Amos Masina**

Mobile: +27 74 670 7951 Email: mayorsecretary@stlm.gov.za