



Ms Kimenthrie Pillay
Director
Thrie Energy Collective

Kimenthrie Pillay is a young and innovative sustainable energy consultant based in Cape Town. As part of her MPhil in Energy and Sustainable Development at the University of Cape Town she developed a data collection method specifically for use in low income households to collect continuous data on energy consumption and behaviour on entry-level cell phones. Thrie Energy Collective was founded as a platform to apply this method to broader contexts and to enrich energy and development practices with well-backed research and science. Prior to founding Thrie Energy Collective, Kimenthrie worked extensively on improving and diversifying low income energy service delivery in the Energy and Climate Change Unit at the City of Cape Town.

Research Topic:

Data Huddle – Data collection method specifically for use in low income households to collect continuous data on energy consumption and behaviour on entry-level cell phones

Access and affordability of energy services are complex issues that differ between households. Surveys are a good way of understanding energy use, but are costly to run, take time to deploy and target a few households in a sample group. The Data Huddle method allows users to use their own mobile phones to submit surveys about their energy consumption over long periods of time. Users get valuable feedback through energy consumption and can access the survey in three different languages. Researchers can also access incoming data in real time, allowing them to refine questions or add more in-depth questions to improve the quality of the survey.