



## Tessa Brewis

CDH

Director: Projects & Energy sector



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**Q** *What is your area of specialty?*

**A** I am a director in the Corporate and Commercial Practice at CDH. My areas of specialty include the transactional and project development aspects of power and energy projects, and mergers and acquisitions in the energy sector. In particular I have extensive experience in the secondary market for renewable energy projects. I advise on a range of transactional and general corporate matters, including local and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, private equity, joint ventures and the formation, structuring and restructuring of business entities and large due diligence investigations.

**Q** *Highlight your experience, especially in the deal making space?*

**A** Highlights include representing numerous sponsors and equity participants in all the rounds of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme in South Africa (REIPPPP). Structuring and negotiating the first exits from operational renewable energy projects required complex negotiations with regulators and coming up with innovative solutions in fairly uncharted waters.

**Q** *Thoughts on Energy/ESG as a whole in SA?*

**A** We are impacted daily by the energy shortages in South Africa and it is one of the greatest threats to growing our economy. Large numbers of South Africans still do not

have access to reliable sources of electricity in their homes. South Africa needs to focus on increasing its power generation capacity, while also moving to cleaner and more sustainable sources of energy.

**Q** *What are some of the hurdles/challenges in this sector?*

**A** There is a lot of policy uncertainty in the energy sector in South Africa, which deters investment. The South African government should strive to make the investment in energy infrastructure as attractive as possible, by ensuring certainty and providing appropriate tax incentives.

**Q** *How did you get into this specialty?*

**A** I am also a notary public and a year or two before the first REIPPPP programme was announced, I was asked to advise a client regarding a notarial lease of property on which they wanted to develop a solar plant. That sparked my interest in renewable energy, and everything progressed from there.

**Q** *Interesting fact/s about yourself and your achievements.*

**A** I love travelling through exchange programmes. With the University of Stellenbosch I was able to do the last semester of my LLB at the University of Antwerp in Belgium and my LLM at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. ♻️

