

‘Carry out regular technological assessments’

New Ziana.

Industries in Zimbabwe should carry out regular technological needs assessments to ensure the type of machinery they are using is efficient and friendly to the environment, an official said on Friday.

National climate change office coordinator Mr Washington Zhakata told New Ziana that industries should also carry out assessments of barriers to technological transfer in order to keep up with international developments.

"They should carry out assessments to see whether the type of technology they are currently using is the best that they could use," he said.

Zhakata said local industries should make every effort to ensure their equipment was in keeping with technological developments in order to reduce emissions of carbon and other greenhouse gases that cause global warming.

He said industries could reduce emission of greenhouse during their production processes through either acquiring modern technology or refurbishing existing equipment.

There was also need for local companies to focus on types of technologies that could be implemented in the country that reduced emission of greenhouse gases while maintaining efficiency and production, he said.

These included tapping electricity from gas produced during treatment of sewerage, which presently is not being utilised.

Companies could also use solar energy to heat water instead of electricity, whose demand continued to rise and has led to load shedding.

"There is need for promotion of photovoltaic systems on a national scale," said Zhakata. "The Government could also promote investment in cleaner technologies through incentives such as reduction in import duty," he said.

Zhakata said the agricultural sector could also contribute immensely towards greenhouse gas mitigation through adopting techniques that adapted to climate change.

These included low tillage where farmers reduced depth of the disc so that tractors do not use much fuel, blending ethanol with gasoline to make a low carbon fuel while the Government could also speed up exploitation of coal bed methane which is cheap and produces less carbon dioxide.

Farmers could also adopt new genetic stocks of crops as well link harvesting with conservation, efficiency and soil nutrient management. "Most equipment we are using is not state of the art and has high carbon emission levels," he said. — New Ziana.