

PLANET AID UK NEWSLETTER

Sustainable Energy for all



Planet Aid UK is the British member of the international Humana People to People movement implementing 600 projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America

www.planetaid-uk.org

Today, one in five people across the world still lack access to modern electricity. This lack of access to reliable sources of energy has far-reaching implications across almost every area of our lives. It has a central

role in producing and preparing the food we eat and the water we drink, how we move throughout the day and night, the amount of time we can dedicate to daily tasks, as well as how we receive information and interact with each other. However globally, 1.1 billion people still do not have access to electricity, and about 2.9 billion still use solid fuels such as wood, charcoal, coal and dung, for cooking and heating.

The socioeconomic benefits of access to reliable and affordable sources of energy are well-documented. Children can read and do homework in the evenings, and families can listen to the radio or watch television. Farmers can use water more efficiently, health clinics and stores can open during longer hours, and people can move about more safely at night. Particularly for women in rural areas of many developing countries, access to energy can save hours of time and physical effort: water pumps mean that water no longer needs to be physically drawn from wells, processing machines mean that hours no longer need to be spent pounding cereals, and cooking can be done without exposing women and children in particular to harmful smoke from wood or kerosene. It is clear that people need access to efficient and affordable sources

of energy in order to achieve long-term sustainable development. However, in Europe for example, fossil fuels are responsible for 42% of all gross electricity generation. Developing countries face an immense challenge in expanding energy supply, which is crucial for development, in a way that limits greenhouse gas emissions. Where possible Humana People to People members have begun



Energy, life changing for poor communities



ADPP Guinea Bissau implemented the Renewable Energy for Local Development in Bissora project from 2011-2016, establishing off-grid stand-alone solar power systems in 51 community facilities. In total, these included 24 community centres, 11 schools, 7 health centres and 9 mosques. Facilities provide light and power for small AC appliances. The project also established 36 solar-powered pump systems including water tank and distribution system to communities and fields. Furthermore, ADPP staff and communities constructed 7 community processing centres. The project has had a significant impact on the lives of approximately 14,000 people across the 24 villages it was implemented in. Community centres have become a place where people can watch football

and movies, as well as organise community events and celebrations. Some community centres and schools have begun adult literacy classes, particularly for women, and community preschools for young children. Young people interviewed during the evaluation period reported an increased feeling of community resulting from having a central point in the village to gather and have access to information and entertainment through televised events.

Solar Lanterns in Mozambique



ADPP Mozambique carried out “The Solar Energy Project” between 2011 and 2014 with in the Quissanga and Ancuabe Districts of Cabo Delgado Province in the north of the country. The project established 40 solar charging stations which rent rechargeable solar lanterns to local communities and also provide phone charging services. The project trained 40 solar power station managers and an additional 200 small business entrepreneurs to build demand for lanterns and strengthen income generation capacity among participants.

Being able to rent lanterns has had several important benefits for both the community and small business owners. Shop keepers have been able to extend their operating hours to after dark; bakers are now able to prepare their bread and other products outside market hours; and several barber

shops have also opened, charging their razors at the solar power stations. Other community members also report that costs for lighting have been reduced and children are now able to study after dark.



Biogas for families in India



Humana People to People India has implemented two phases of the “Biogas for Enhanced Quality of Life” project since 2011. As of the end of 2016, 400 biogas plants had been constructed across 100 villages in the Dausa district of Rajasthan in order to increase access to clean energy for cooking and lighting.

HPPI worked with local masons and connected families to available government subsidies to encourage the uptake of biogas as an alternative to more commonly used dung cakes and wood for cooking and heating. For these purposes, self-produced gas is not only cheaper, but also does not produce smoke, which can be harmful for those who are most-often

exposed such as women and children. In addition, the by-product of biogas production can be used as an alternative to common fertilizers with the potential to further reduce costs linked to agricultural production. The project evaluation revealed that 99.3% of participants were using the plants for fuel and 94% were using by-product as fertilizer in their fields. Women in the project reported saving an average of 3.3 hours per day on daily tasks, primarily due to a significant reduction in the need for firewood and dung cakes, as well as being able to prepare food more quickly. Many women also reported a reduction in eye and throat problems, which could have been due to high exposure to smoke.

The Importance of Re-using Your Clothes

There are many good reasons for donating your clothes and reducing the production of new clothing.

- A bag of used clothes donated to Planet Aid UK does more to protect the air than one tree does in a year.
- The manufacture of new clothes has a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, once produced, clothes should be worn for as long as possible.
- The ‘invisible rucksack’ on the back of **each cotton t-shirt** weighs 7,000kg of water and 500g of chemicals are consumed in its production. 7kg of CO₂ are released in the production and distribution of new clothes.
- ‘Fast Fashion’- cheap clothes produced in countries like Bangladesh, do not give the workers satisfactory wages or safe working conditions. In 2013 the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh collapsed burying thousands of textile workers. Over 1,100 people died in the disaster and a further 2,500 were injured.
- Humana People to People, of which Planet Aid UK is a member, collects clothes from over 50,000 clothing banks throughout Europe and the USA. Their members have 40 years experience in the trade, from collecting and selling second hand clothes, to securing the highest percentage of re-use (70% of the clothes we collect are re-worn).



Our smallest bank at local shops



Our community bank at local shops



Our new theft-proof bank

Humana People to People in Europe



Europe

The main part of the clothes collection takes place in Western Europe from more than 20,000 clothing banks.

Humana People to People is a worldwide federation of members operating over 1100 projects within education, health, food security and environment. In Europe the 26 members main activities are to raise funds for aid projects in the poorer parts of the world. Since the federation started the collection and selling of second hand clothes has been at the heart of our activities. Today a large part of the funds comes from donors like UNICEF, UNESCO, Global Funds, USAID, European Commission, businesses and governments in Europe, to name just a few.

Planet Aid UK
33 Maylan Road
Earlstrees Industrial Est.
Corby, Northants
NN17 4DR
Tel: 01536-400721

Planet Aid UK
Unit 1, Block A
Post Cross Business Park
Kentisbeare, Cullompton
Devon EX15 2BB
Tel: 01884-266823

Improving our Clothing Banks

For many years, in Planet Aid UK's own workshop, we have produced our own small community banks and refurbished hundreds more on an ongoing basis. Over the past five years it has become more and more important to improve our banks and purchase more secure banks to prevent theft and ensure that people's donations are kept dry.



Old clothing banks have been improved with new doors using a 'push up' input and a new model from Metal Master, our clothing bank supplier, has been installed on many of our more productive sites.

Over the past six months we have increased our improvement programme and over the next six months we plan to improve another 400 banks. The team responsible for improving and replacing banks have been empowered, and the promotions team has employed new people. Throughout the year we have had several meetings with councils and we are working together with their recycling teams to improve our collection.

WE know how important it is that our site hosts are aware that the banks are being emptied and that many of our drivers know their hosts. This is another way of preventing theft.

We would like to thank all our hosts for their commitment to housing one of our clothing banks. Please call us if you would like a more frequent emptying service, or if you experience unauthorised collectors visiting our sites.