Solar Cook to Love/Love to Solar Cook

A Demonstration Project

Project Profile

GREEN Power

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Background

Much of humanity suffers from **Energy Poverty**, a lack of access to modern energy services. These services are defined as household access to electricity and clean cooking facilities (e.g. fuels and stoves that do not cause indoor air pollution.) However, access to improved energy services is essential for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

Solar Cooking is certainly a method of cooking that does not cause indoor air pollution. In fact, Solar Cooking yields no harmful emissions and it requires no fuel. It is also free, easy to do, and very user friendly. It is beneficial to both people and the environment.

2. Rationale

Oddly, many of the areas most prone to **Energy Poverty** are the very areas that Peace Corps works in**.**

Peace Corps Volunteers could make a dramatic impact on Energy Poverty in the areas that they work. In view of the importance of improved access to clean energy, the impact it has on many (if not most) different aspects of life such as health, education, economic development and social life, it seems only logical that Peace Corps would want to be involved.

If a plan could be actualized, benefits would spread in several directions at economic, environmental, health, education, and social levels. Indeed, this could include:

- Improved access to solar cooking will bring about substantial savings by eliminating (or greatly reducing) the need to purchase fuels.
- At the same time, it will align the areas that Peace Corps works with strategic approaches with the most advanced sustainable development strategies.
- The initiative will help integrate environmental considerations into policies, plans and programmes.
- At the social level, improved access to solar ccooking will greatly contribute to upgrade the quality of life.
- Moreover, improved access to solar cooking will widen the window of opportunities that, besides increasing the local economy, may contribute to the orderly development of the overall communities.

Not to mention the benefits it could have on PCVs

3. Project description

The project can be described as follows.

3.1 Objectives, benefits, and target beneficiaries

- Project goal (long term objective)

A demonstration of the effectiveness of Peace Corps' involvement in improving access to energy improvements.

- Project purpose (immediate objective)

A demonstration of the effectiveness of Peace Corps Volunteers involvement in the sustainable introduction of solar cooking.

- Expected Benefits

The expected benefits are as follows:

Direct benefits:

- Improved access to solar cooking goods
- Improved support to solar cooks
- More directed, busier, happier Volunteers

Indirect benefits

The indirect benefits concern the wide range of opportunities that the increased access to improved energy goods will bring about for people.

- Target Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries will include:

The residents in areas affected by Peace Corps.

Peace Corps Volunteers in affected countries

In order to score the target groups' expected benefits, the project foresees the monitoring of the social and economic impact that solar *cooking* goods and methods brings.

In the long term, but obviously beyond the time span of this project, it would be important to gauge the impact that solar cooking goods and methods may have

on the deep-rooted behaviour, custom and habits of individuals, families and communities.

3.2 The technology at issue

This proposed project is based on solar cooking and the technology behind it. That is because solar cooking can have a very positive impact on people and the environment.
Nearly every household cooks
The sun shines everywhere, at least some of the time, and sunshine is free.
No harmful emissions
Reduced exposure to smoke
Reduced environmental degradation

3.3 Sites/locations

This initial phase of the project is merely a conversation which could happen anywhere.

Ultimately it would be great if this project impacted every Peace Corps post.

3.4 Project activities/Discussion points

- Embracing the first goal

- Cooking is a major user of energy for nearly every household, and therefore an issue nearly every household.

- Fine tuning volunteers to solar cooking tasks

  Education volunteers
  Health volunteers
  Community economic development volunteers
  Environment volunteers

- Providing support to above

- Working with the private sector

    - Energy improvement providers
    - Grocery and food provider

- Working with other agencies and government ministries
    - MFIs
    - Rotary Club
    - Other Volunteer sending agencies
    - Ministry of Health
    - Ministry of Education
    - Ministry of Energy
    - Ministry of Environment
    - Etc.

- Engaging RPCVs

4. Project Cost and Financing Summary

The first step in this project is just a conversation/consultation. I would be willing to take part in this conversation without charging any fees.

Therefore, the envisaged cost for David Stein's involvement in this initial phase of the project would only be his expenses (round-trip airfare to wherever this conversation should take place plus per diem.)

5. Implementation Arrangement and Schedule

Project fine-tuning and implementation will see the participation of David Stein, Solar Cookers International, and possibly selected Peace Corps staff.