



Biomass, Brazil

This biomass fuel switch project in a brick factory is contributing to the protection of the Amazon rainforest and sustainable development in the Brazilian state of Amazonas.

Location



This project is located at a brick works in the state of Amazonas in Northern Brazil, in the Amazon rainforest. The state's economy is based on forest products (from natural rubber to precious hardwoods), agriculture (cassava, oranges), and technology such as mobile phone production.

Project



This climate protection project has been set up within a small company that produces structural ceramic pieces such as bricks and tiles for the market in Manaus, the main city of Amazonas. Before the implementation of the project, it used wood obtained from the Amazon rainforest to fire the kilns in its ceramic production. The use of this non-renewable biomass contributed to the deforestation of the heavily threatened Amazonian ecosystem.

The fuel switch to a more sustainable production process contributes to both a reduced human impact on the Amazon rainforest, as well as allowing for investment in environmental, social and economic sustainability initiatives in the region.



Situated in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon, the brick company is working to bring carbon-financed social development to its stakeholders. For example, the project owner is supporting grass-roots organisations, including one which sets up an educational therapy centre for disabled children.

In the workplace, the project owner is working with state and national associations to bring professional training, operational improvements and environmental and health-risk control to its business and employees. The project is using carbon finance to lay the foundations for long-term social progress and support, in both the community and the workplace.

Project achievements



Socio-economic impact:

- Construction of a therapy centre for handicapped children in the community has been planned with building site for the clinics purchased by the factory owner.
- Community donations are made toward local sports teams, including the town's "Eu sou a Esperança" handball team.
- The company works with SEBRAE, the national agency for small business development, to support the ceramic works through a program designed to improve and optimise the company's organisation and productivity.
- The company encourages the participation of its workers in professional training and courses, supported by ACERAM, the Amazon ceramics association, and has a partnership with IFAM, the State Institute for Technical Education, where factory employees take classes.

Environmental impact:

- The project contributes to avoided deforestation by using renewable biomass in the place of native timber from the surrounding rainforest.
- Through its water license, the ceramic factory monitors and controls its water use, to further reduce its environmental impact.
- The little ash generated as a by-product in brick production is given to local farmers as a non-synthetic fertiliser.

Checklist Project 301 296



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✓ Transparency:	provided by Markit Environmental Registry
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