



Breathing Space Cookstoves

This project, located in southern India, involves the design, manufacture and distribution of efficient household cookstoves. These stoves reduce smoke and toxic emissions by 80%, significantly improving the health and wellbeing of families while also creating jobs and reducing deforestation. A women empowerment programme offers income opportunities and improves the social position of women in rural communities.

Location



The project is located in India where over 60 per cent of the population uses firewood for cooking. Approximately 170 million families in India depend on firewood as main source of fuel, making it a rapidly depleting resource. The programme is currently focused on the southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In this part of India, people spend an average of 3 hours a day to collect firewood for fuel consumption.

Project



Using the traditional method of cooking over an open flame exposes some women and children in southern India to the equivalent of burning 400 cigarettes per hour. These toxic fumes cause a range of respiratory issues and are estimated to contribute to approximately 500,000 premature deaths per year, in India alone.

Approximately 200,000 households have access to efficient cook stoves under this programme, preventing the emission of around 27,495 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year.



These stoves use less fuel and cook much faster than previous methods, meaning families save time and money, which can instead be used to care for and educate children and contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty. A special focus is laid on training women as female entrepreneurs and involving them actively in marketing and sales of the cook stoves. This Women's Empowerment Programme allows women in rural India to gain their own income, thus improving their livelihoods and social position in their communities.

A local community group in Khanav village also contributes to this project by providing ethical, affordable loans to households so that the cost of a new cookstove can be repaid over several months.

Achievements



Socio-economic impact:

- The stoves reduce smoke and toxic emissions by 80%, significantly improving the health and well-being of the families that use them.
- The project activity generates around 25 permanent jobs and provides employment opportunities for women. So far, 46 women entrepreneurs have been trained on the sales process and product. The project aims at having 250 active women entrepreneurs in total.
- The carbon program serves to partially subsidise the cost of cookstoves. This makes the cookstoves more affordable for local families. It also provides a financial incentive for entrepreneurs to sell, monitor, and evaluate the impact of stoves throughout the country.
- Because of the reduced fuel consumption, 15 million hours are saved collecting firewood and money is saved which is then reinvested into the family's health and education.

Environmental impact:

- Approximately 200,000 households have access to efficient cook stoves under this programme, preventing the emission of around 27,495 tonnes of greenhouse gases per year.
- The project reduces fuel wood requirements by approximately 60%.

Checklist Project 301 522



Gold Standard

✓ Additionality and permanence:	according to the rules of the Gold Standard
✓ 3rd party verified:	by TÜV Nord
✓ Transparency:	provided by Markit Environmental Registry
✓ Annual CO₂-reduction:	27,495 tCO ₂ e
✓ Social and environmental benefits:	as documented in our database
✓ Marketing material:	high resolution pictures available

For further information and to learn about availabilities please contact:

South Pole Group

sales@thesouthpolegroup.com

+41 43 501 35 50

www.southpolegroup.com

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