



Innovative Initiative: **Environmental Design** *Redefining the way people live, work and play.*

Our planet's natural capital assets can no longer support practices that threaten water quality, degrade soils and forests, create new toxins, and endanger the air we breathe.

Winrock's Environmental Design initiative, launched in 2006, actively seeks opportunities to show how a "life cycle approach" to economic development can improve lives and resource use.

Eliminating the Concept of Waste

Waste, by definition, is paying for something you don't want. By examining processes from beginning to end - through the "life-cycle" - Environmental Design inspires new practices that lower both input costs and the cost of excess materials. In addition to reducing generation of waste, Environmental Design models also transform what had been considered wastes into resources for energy, products, and jobs. This shift in thinking and action supports a 'cradle to cradle' concept applicable around the world through waste processing that generates valuable byproducts creation of new jobs within emerging, waste-based industries, and the use of crop residues for new products.

Green Products - Production of single or limited-use materials from biodegradable or recycled materials can create jobs, direct wastes into a sustainable use cycle, and support a new way of thinking and living. From food packaging made from corn starch or sugar cane fiber to composting technologies, Winrock's expertise in enterprise development, agriculture, resource management, and community development supports exploration of this emerging concept.

Innovation example:

Bio-gas turns problems into assets. Controlled decomposition of human and animal wastes generates renewable energy, alleviating reliance on costly and polluting fossil fuels and deforestation from fuelwood. The process destroys pathogens, lowers greenhouse gas release, and reduces waste volume, resulting in a concentrated, sanitary fertilizer.



*In Brazil - Seeing is believing-
biogas lights up bulbs and
eyes!*

Fertilizer and bio-gas are valuable, so wastes are collected and kept from polluting waterways. Biogas burns cleanly, unlike wood, improving health for people who switch to it.

Learn More and Share Your Insight -

Winrock International's commitment to innovative approaches and new ideas results in programs that make a real difference for people and the planet. Learn more about Winrock's work worldwide at www.winrock.org. We welcome your suggestions and support. Become a partner, share your ideas, or help extend the reach of our projects through financial support.

Learn More about Winrock International's Environmental Design Program

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