

# COMMUNITY CLEAN ENERGY



Winrock supports community-focused projects that introduce clean energy technologies to households, schools and local enterprises in order to achieve tangible economic, social and environmental benefits.





Around the world today, one in five people still lacks access to electricity. Three billion people burn wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste for cooking and heating. By focusing on local communities, Winrock efficiently packages quality, energy-enabled services for disadvantaged populations. Our services support livelihoods, promote access to education, and improve health and well-being. We scale this community approach by working with governments and the private sector to reach thousands of households in hundreds of communities around the world cost-effectively.

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## Methodology

Our approach provides clean energy options that eliminate detrimental practices, such as the depletion of precious natural resources and inefficient and unhealthy household routines. In partnership with local communities, businesses and governments, we tap the transformative power of clean energy to improve education, air quality, information services and health through the provision of reliable lighting in homes, schools and health centers. We introduce new savings and revenue streams for farmers and local entrepreneurs. While **Community Clean Energy** promotes small-scale changes, it produces long-term benefits in nutrition, education, the environment and job creation. It also improves the status of women and children.

Winrock's **Community Clean Energy** programs advance the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goal to ensure access to affordable, reliable, clean and sustainable energy. Reaching this goal will require subsidies. We continually strive to find cost-effective ways to multiply the impact of subsidies by leveraging private resources. Our programs support other key goals related to livelihoods, the environment, infrastructure and food security. **Community Clean Energy** programs deliver economic benefits by eliminating the financial and health costs of dirty energy, promoting stronger supply chains in clean energy products, and expanding entrepreneurial activities that build skills and create jobs.

Winrock supports change that is environmentally healthy and sustainable, while improving people's livelihoods. We pursue these goals at a local level in an integrated and practical way. Our approach:

- Focuses on innovations that matter to local populations, such as increasing income, improving air quality (by reducing smoke from fires) and gaining access to clean water;
- Works locally to improve a community's quality of life by introducing a range of clean energy technologies – everything from cookstoves and lights for homes to solar pumps for productive uses to solar panels for schools and health centers to mini-grids that power entire communities;
- Ensures that local communities can access essential financing to adopt clean energy technologies and agree on straightforward and inclusive governance processes to manage new resources; and
- Encourages learning by all.

Winrock's **Community Clean Energy** projects build a sustainable, clean energy future. Our approach isn't about installing new gadgets. It's about increasing awareness of the most cost-effective way to deliver services. We drive innovation, train advocates and entrepreneurs, leverage resources, open up access to financing, and solidify supply chains.



## CASE STUDIES

### Alliance for Mindanao Rural Energy Development

Winrock's **Alliance for Mindanao Rural Energy Development** project in the Philippines addressed a lack of energy in rural areas by assisting the government's efforts to support a range of energy solutions. These included the use of photovoltaic solar home systems and lanterns, as well as mini-grids, to power entire communities. We helped over 22,000 households acquire solar home systems and provided solar energy to more than 400 schools – an accomplishment that allowed students to benefit from more sophisticated audio-visual learning tools. We mobilized investments from the Philippines Department of Energy and private companies interested in corporate social responsibility, as well as the users of clean energy themselves. To drive progress, we provided technical assistance to local entrepreneurs and linked them to suppliers selling energy products and services to rural households. Connecting local actors and organizations to the supply chain was key to the success of this effort.

### Smallholder Solar Irrigation

As part of its **Smallholder Solar Irrigation** project in Kenya, Winrock introduced solar water pumps to smallholder farmers. Solar water pumps have increased farmers' vegetable production, allowing them to double or triple their annual income. Such obvious economic benefits increase the interest and willingness of others in the community to try new technologies.

### Developing a Sustainable Cookstove Sector

Traditional cookstoves burn wood and generate lots of smoke, making the preparation of food more difficult and less healthy. As part of its **Developing a Sustainable Cookstove Sector** initiative in Kenya, Winrock expanded distribution chains that sell new and cleaner-burning cookstoves. We developed training programs and a handbook to cultivate the business skills of cookstove entrepreneurs, who are leading the transition to more sustainable equipment household by household.



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