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Did you know?

- Greenhouse gas levels are rising at fastest rate since 1984?
- The off-grid, Clean Energy Access Market was recently valued at \$US12 Billion?
- More that 50% of premature deaths among children under 5 are due to pneumonia caused by particulate matter (soot) inhaled from household air pollution?
- The annual savings for a Ghanaian family switching from kerosene to solar will be around \$US124.9 per year?

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GCP SOLAR TO COLLABORATE WITH HEALTHCARE CLINIC IN KENYA

Sidney Yankson (CEO) talks with Friends of Burburi charity to distribute solar lanterns in Western Kenya

GCP Solar is set to partner with a new distribution partner in Kenya, the Friends of Burburi charity, to supply solar lanterns to their health clinic in a rural community. Around 12,000 Kenyans a year are treated at this clinic; over 50% of patients suffer from respiratory problems, often stemming from indoor air pollution. Kerosene lamps are still frequently used as a lighting source on the sub-Saharan continent. Sitting in the presence of a lamp for four hours is the equivalent to smoking forty cigarettes.

Moreover, the World Health Organisation denotes that the long-term use of kerosene lamps within a household could lead to severe lung injuries, such as pneumonitis. The repeated exposure to carbon monoxide emitted from burning fossil fuels is highly detrimental to the users health and the environment. An impact report in Haiti by the U.S Agency for International Development portrayed that the average life span is shortened by 6.6 years due to the impacts of indoor air pollution caused by burning biomass indoors. Acute Lower Respiratory Illness (ALRI) is the number one killer of children under five in Haiti (as it is worldwide). To further this, it is believe that 4 million people



GHANA THINKS BIG ON SMALL-SCALE SOLAR

For almost five decades, hydroelectric power from the Volta region has been Ghana's energy backbone, while the nascent oil and gas industry has recently risen up the agenda. But solar power could play an increasingly important role. With over 5 million households off-grid, market potential for solar energy in Ghana is calling investors' attention to expand mini-grids in rural and peri-urban areas.

Yet, business sustainability and return on investments remain question marks despite the attractive legal framework which followed Ghana's Renewables Energy Act 2011. To date, modalities to offset feed-in tariffs are still unclear while doubts continue to cast over the capacity of Electricity Company of Ghana (the national electricity off-taker) to pay independent power producers (IPPs). Some industry actors are however hopeful.

Sidney Yankson, CEO of the Africa focused private equity boutique Ghana Capital Partners (GCP), currently developing a 28MW solar power plant (costing \$56million), does not deny these arguments but remains strongly confident in advocating for solar. He told Africa Energy that solar energy is becomingly increasingly viable from a financial perspective also in Ghana, "both for commercial and residential purposes. The price of solar PV panels keeps decreasing and the appeal of a reliable energy source, powered by the sun, whose installation price will decrease – unlike the conventional electricity – cannot be underestimated."

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annually die prematurely from indoor air pollution caused by burning fuels, coal and biomass.

GCP Solar hopes to provide a lighting solution for this off-grid medical centre in Western Kenya, as well as curbing the negative health effects of kerosene lamps. Solar lanterns are a clean and safe lighting source to both the users and the environment. UNEP indicates that switching to solar lanterns in off-grid lighting areas could save 882,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually, equivalent to 220,000 mid-size cars going off the road. The annual savings of using solar lanterns compared to kerosene lamps is also at \$125 (US) per household per year.

GCP Solar is very pleased to be partnering with the Friends of Burburi charity to distribute their solar lantern product; this will enable a healthier future for Kenyans and provide a safe light solution for the Buburi Health clinic, allowing patients to be treated after dark.

SOLAR AID, A LONDON-BASED CHARITY, SETS AN AMBITIOUS GOAL TO REMOVE KEROSENE LAMPS FROM AFRICA BY 2020

Solar Aid have set themselves the challenge of removing kerosene lanterns as the favoured lighting source in Africa. They hope to see the shift to clean, affordable and sustainable solar lights by 2020. Solar Aid has also recently set-up a social enterprise, SunnyMoney, in Kenya.

Like GCP Solar, Solar Aid are trying to make more and more people aware of the dangers and costs of kerosene lanterns. Solar lanterns can make lives better by providing a long-term and safe solution. Laura Muhati who recently started working on the SunnyMoney social enterprise commented that she was impressed with the high sale rates of the products they distribute, moreover gaining trust in solar is key and it is evident that communities are already starting to see the benefits. Parents, teachers and children say that their lives have been improved and encourage their friends to buy one too.

A local primary school teacher in Kenya, Barnabbas Cheptaruch commented that life had become, 'cheaper, healthier and manageable with solar lights'. SunnyMoney is changing lives at a grassroots level.

This positive feedback from the local community is very similar to what we've experienced at GCP Solar. We continue to distribute our solar lantern product to jurisdictions in Africa, encouraging safer and sustainable living.