



PEACE CORPS ENERGY AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS (ECPA) INITIATIVE

Peace Corps is an independent US government agency started in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, dedicated to providing technical assistance and promoting cross-cultural understanding around the world.

Peace Corps Volunteers currently work with communities and host country governments to promote activities that address climate changes and energy use, including access to fuel efficient stoves, bio-digesters, and, to a more limited extent, solar energy (photovoltaics and water heating). They also train thousands of teachers and community leaders in environmental education, improved natural resources management and climate change adaptation.

The Peace Corps ECPA Initiative, with support of the US State Department will enhance the capacity of communities in Latin America to address rural energy poverty through a multi-faceted approach of capacity building with micro-entrepreneurs, consumers, and community leaders, coupled with small grants to these communities. Volunteers will support energy-efficient practices and alternative energy technologies, including small-scale home or school solar solutions, cook stoves, small wind turbines, or other energy-efficiency solutions.

Under this initiative, initially focusing on Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Suriname, the Peace Corps will:

- increase municipal, school, and communities' awareness to promote behavior change related to energy conservation, use of renewable energy, climate mitigation, and climate adaptation;
- enhance the availability of small businesses and micro-financing to support communities' abilities to implement, access, and maintain renewable energy technologies; and
- support community-led energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate mitigation and adaptation projects. Renewable technology projects may include solar or fuel efficient stoves or ovens, biodigesters, solar water heating, photovoltaics, wind or mini hydroelectric power generation, or use of alternative fuels. Climate change mitigation and adaptation projects may relate to disaster preparedness or reforestation.

In each country, the Peace Corps will work with host governments, international, national, and local partners to train community leaders and to facilitate small-scale projects to reduce carbon emissions, improve health, improve access to energy in rural communities, and create income-generation opportunities for individuals and small businesses in rural areas.



Variety of Alternative Cook Stoves



Fuel efficient barrel oven



Biodigester

Collaborating with Peace Corps to Scale-Up Energy and Environment Efforts

Peace Corps plans to increase the number of Volunteers working in the LAC region in the coming few years and seeks to collaborate with international and host-country partners to enhance programming and training support for energy and environment.

Peace Corps offers:

- Local Integration and Continuity: By remaining in their communities for two years, Volunteers become integrated into the community and become familiar with local assets and development priorities. Often Peace Corps places two or three Volunteers sequentially in a site, enabling follow-up to ensure innovations are sustained.
- Scale and reach: Peace Corps has a large network of 2,600 professionals serving for two year periods in low-income communities in 21 countries throughout the Americas. They work with local and partners on capacity building, acceptance and piloting of new technologies, continuity, and expanding the reach of innovative solutions. We can provide opportunities to train host country implementers in new technologies.
- A global network of knowledge sharing: Volunteers, the majority of whom are new graduates, are connected with modern technology and can quickly learn and share information on effective practices in community-led energy and conservation solutions with their communities.
- Monitoring and evaluation: Peace Corps has implemented a comprehensive system to monitor and evaluate of community-led initiatives.

Peace Corps seeks collaboration from partners in the form of:

- Potential sites for placement of its Volunteers.
- Exchange of information on proven technologies.
- Exchange of technical training materials and opportunities for cross-trainings.
- Additional funding for community-initiated small grants or access to credit.

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also see the ECPA website: www.ecpamericas.org



Tree nursery



Photovoltaic panel for a school