



Case Study

co2balance in the community.

Fuel Efficiency

One of the Gold Standard projects our customers have helped to support is in the Kisumu district of Kenya.

The key to success of the African energy efficient stove projects operated by co2balance, is the extensive education and monitoring program put in place in every community.

In the highly successful Kisumu East project located near the shores of Lake Victoria in Kenya, the locally recruited education team have been working with the community beneficiaries of the stove project to make best use of all available fuel sources for their new stoves.

What was previously agricultural waste, with education and support is now a valuable source of fuel. Saving money and time for the households as well as reliving pressure on diminishing resources.

Education is the key to long term success.

The Kisumu East project is one of two Gold Standard carbon reduction projects co2balance have in operation in the hills above Kenya's third largest city. Close to Lake Victoria there is a hot and humid climate and some of the poorest rural communities in the country.

Prior to the establishment of the co2balance Energy Efficient Stove projects, most householders in this area used a traditional open fire, or three stone fire to cook their meals. The inefficiency and polluting nature of this method of cooking is well known. Increasingly the scarcity of wood fuel was causing conflict between neighbours and accelerating the rates of deforestation in the area.

The highly efficient nature of the new co2balance stove made an immediate impact on the fuel load required. Typically halving the amount of wood consumed, but the improvements do not stop there. Our education team for the area, headed up by Wycliffe Churchill Odumo, have spent many hours in the community educating the households how to get the best from their new stoves.

Under traditional methods small sticks and twigs would not be collected in favour of larger pieces of timber, which were often too fresh or wet to be effective. The new stove utilises these small sticks and twigs very efficiently so users are encouraged to collect these and to dry and process them for use in their new stove.

Until recently maize cobs, the staple food in this area were simply discarded as food waste. Under the guidance of Wycliffe and his team (John and Christine) the local people have been trained to store and dry the empty maize cobs as an additional valuable fuel source. Mixed with small amounts of wood in the efficient combustion chamber of the new stoves, the cobs make an excellent wood fuel substitute.

So what was once waste becomes valuable, and enables even smaller amounts of wood, mostly in the form of dry twigs and sticks, picked up from the floor of the forest, to replace larger logs that would have required more of the dwindling stock of trees to be cut down.

The work of our education and monitoring teams ensures the long term success of our projects, and the continued acceptance and grateful cooperation of our host communities.

