

Case Study

co2balance in the community.

Village Savings and Loans

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

The African energy efficient stove projects operated by co2balance opened up opportunities for the community to develop sustainable, self supporting local business ventures.

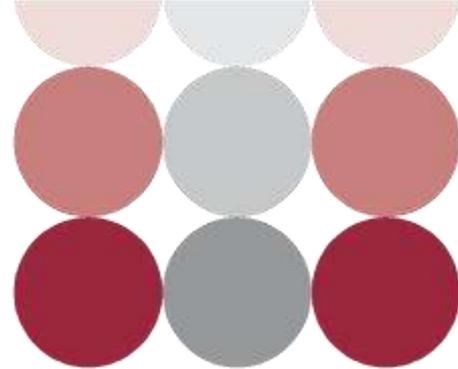
The "Pawpek" (meaning ground of difficulty) Community Based Organisation (CBO) is made up of ten registered community self help groups in Kajulu west, an area that includes Simboi village within the Kisumu East, co2balance project area in Kenya. The group was having great difficulty becoming established because of a lack of funding and above all a lack of time available to get organised.

The arrival of the co2balance stove project in the area changed that for the better. This is how...



About co2balance UK Ltd

Established in 2003, co2balance UK Ltd is a leading, UK based, carbon management provider offering carbon calculation, management and reduction services to leading blue chip companies including, BSKyB, Toshiba Europe, Gaz De France, Fiat and Flybe. As a project developer co2balance UK Ltd creates African Gold Standard and CDM projects that focus on social, health and community benefits to the families within the project area, in addition to carbon savings.



Empowering communities to help themselves

The arrival of the co2balance stoves in this project area dramatically reduced the burden of wood collection and purchase. This has enabled weekly savings to be made from the reduced requirement for wood fuel and enabled the community to initiate a Village Savings and Loaning (VSL) scheme. Less firewood being used during cooking has enabled the members of the CBO to save money for the VSL. The CBO has saved money to register its activities and funded a number of fund raising projects for example; purchase of 100 plastic chairs for hire, a poultry farming venture, the VSL, and a merry go round for hire in their respective self help groups.

Commenting on the project Elidah, the secretary for the CBO says "I am a member of the "Money Makes Me", Self Help Group which makes up part of PAWPEK- CBO. We tried a merry go round previously without success since members had no steady savings, and very little time. Firewood took all the money, as we were cooking on the 3 stone cookers which wasted a lot of wood fuel, time and money. We could not afford to put good diet food on the table and seek medication due to inadequate funds. Upon arrival of CZK stoves there was opposite status in all these. We save a lot of money every day as we cook on the stoves for VSL. Now **we've** launched a new CBO, we hope to grow and continue improving our standard of living even though cost of living has risen in our country. I thank co2balance for the stoves on behalf of our members to enable us buy food, clothes and plastic chairs for our families. So we decided to name our self help group the "Money Makes Me group".

The chairman of the CBO, Wilfred comments; "Carbon Zero Kenya stoves have transformed the lives of our families in this CBO by improving their livelihoods in starting income generating activities through VSL, thanks to savings from minimized firewood on the stove."

The energy efficient stoves from co2balance are initiating important economic and social activity within the project communities. The reduction in wood fuel relieves pressure on scarce resources and the saving in time and money enables the communities to help themselves out of poverty.