



United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Pollinate Energy: Clean Energy for India's Urban Communities | India

In the slums of Bangalore, children cannot do their homework after the sun sets. Families use polluting kerosene lamps, and the fuel eats up a significant percentage of their humble incomes. [Pollinate Energy](#) trains members of the local community to distribute and install solar lighting systems as micro-entrepreneurs, or what the organization calls "Pollinators." These Pollinators are armed with the best solar systems on the market and sell them to families within their communities.

The problem

Millions of Indians live in urban slums without electricity. The polluting kerosene lamps many families depend on cause health problems, burns and fires. Pollinate Energy is a not-for-profit social business that provides poor people in India's urban slums with access to affordable, solar-powered home lighting systems.

The solution

Pollinate Energy produces and sells low-cost solar lighting solutions to members of more than 250 slum communities throughout Bangalore. The solar lights are intended to replace kerosene lights by using a micro-entrepreneurial model. Pollinate Energy volunteers train local people from the urban communities to sell solar lights in slums, thereby creating new distribution channels and overcoming the challenge of getting renewable energy into the slums.

This activity has two key benefits: it gives communities access to cheaper, renewable energy, providing alternatives to the expensive and toxic kerosene lamps that many of them use; and it gives community members the opportunity to earn extra income through a micro-entrepreneurship programme. So far, over 10,000 urban poor living in Bangalore's slum communities have been provided with solar systems. Transitioning from kerosene to solar has saved more than 40,000 litres of kerosene and 100,000 kilograms of carbon emissions to date.

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