



Household biogas units, Ethiopia

Essential facts and figures

Project activity	Subsidised construction of small-scale biogas units for rural households in Ethiopia.
Project site	Ethiopia
Project owner	Development Bank of Ethiopia
Start date of operation	2016
Project duration	2016 to 2024
Quantity of emission reductions (in tonnes of CO₂)	800'000 CERs with an option for a further 350'000 CERs (CCF share of around 20%)

Project description

The project covers the subsidised construction of biogas units for rural households in Ethiopia, whose price is reduced by around 240 USD to reach 560 USD. The biogas units are built by local biogas companies working with specially trained masons. The local biogas companies receive a yearly bonus of 10 USD per reliably functioning biogas unit, ensuring that the biogas facilities are properly built and serviced.

The biogas units are built underground and topped off with domed masonry work. They have a capacity of 3 to 6 m³ and require dung from at least four heads of cattle to be processed into biogas. The biogas replaces non-sustainably used wood for cooking purposes. The nutrient-rich sludge generated as a by-product can be used as fertiliser. Households are thus able to reduce their fuel and fertiliser expenses, spend less time gathering wood, and improve their health by inhaling fewer pollutants when cooking. Connecting the facility to the latrine makes it possible to further improve biogas yield and hygiene.

Over the duration of the project, around 40'000 biogas units are to be built, reducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 1.5 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. In order to cushion the risk of underdelivery, the World Bank's "Carbon Initiative for Development" (Ci-Dev), in which the Climate Cent Foundation holds a share, is purchasing 800'000 of the CERs generated by the project over the period 2016 to 2024 – with an option to redeem a further 350'000 CERs as needed.

Project status

The project was registered by the UN in March 2016 as n° 10268.

The project covers the second phase of Ethiopia's national biogas programme. The first phase took place in 2009-2013 and served to market test and technically improve the biogas units. The second phase launched in 2014, but emission reductions may be imputed under the project only from 1 April 2016 onward. During the first phase, over 10'000 biogas units were built and more than 100 masons were trained.

Project owner

The Development Bank of Ethiopia is a specialised financial establishment tasked to implement the national development strategy. It provides financial and technical support to selected projects of national interest – such as the national biogas programme.

For further information
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