



Blue Ventures Carbon Offset Energy Efficient Stoves Programme *Madagascar & South Africa*

The last 3 months of BVCO have been a time of exciting new developments and expansions: Demonstrations continue to raise the awareness of energy-efficient stoves within our partner villages in Andavadoaka, Madagascar; a new project has been launched in Morondava funded by The Adventure Company; carbon management projects are developing for individuals and businesses in the UK; and, most excitingly of all, we launch a new programme in South Africa!

Update January - March 2008

New South Africa Programme

BVCO has started a new partnership with South African organisation Sunfire Solutions to facilitate a solar stove and fuel-efficient stove programme in South Africa. The programme will be operating in three regions as three separate projects. These are Soweto, in Johannesburg, Polkwane in Limpopo, and the area of Acornhoek, just outside the Kruger National Park.

The programmes are being launched at a time of growing energy insecurity in South Africa, and hope to help those that are hit hardest by rising fuel costs; the rural and urban poor.



The fuel-efficient Vesto stove used in BVCO's new South Africa programme

The projects within this programme will subsidise stoves to make them affordable to poor households in these regions. The stoves all reduce the requirement for fuel wood and charcoal by 50% - 70%. All stoves provide:

Economic benefits: reducing fuel

use and associated costs, providing a low carbon development path, creating new local employment opportunities

Social benefits: reducing the time households spend collecting wood, freeing time for other activities, and minimising fuel expense

Health benefits: improving household air quality & reducing burn-related accidents

Environment benefits: helping to reduce deforestation pressure and reducing carbon dioxide emissions



The parabolic stove used in the South Africa programme

Sponsor a stove

You can now help households in South Africa by sponsoring a stove with BVCO. We estimate that each stove reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 1.5 - 2 tonnes per year, costing £19.50 per year through BVCO's new onset programme. To sponsor a stove go to [www.bvco.org.uk/BVCO Projects Howcanihelp](http://www.bvco.org.uk/BVCO_Projects_Howcanihelp).

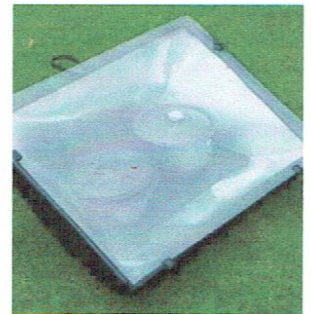
Supporters receive an emissions reduction certificate and regular newsletters on the project's progress.

Sponsor a community

BVCO is also looking to work in partnership with businesses and organisa-

tions to support larger numbers of stoves in specific projects. For example, finance is needed to support replication of BVCO's existing Madagascar projects in a number of new villages that have requested partnership with BVCO. These villages range in size from 40 to 250 households. All new projects will be verified through the Tourism Industry Carbon Offset Service - www.ticos.co.uk. Regular communication between BVCO and the partner company will ensure that a lasting connection can be made to the project.

If you are interested in linking your organisation to one of these projects then please get in touch with ellie@blueventures.org.



The Sunbox solar cooker used in the South Africa programme

Madagascar Demonstrations continue

BVCO stove demonstrations have been continuing in Andavadoaka over recent months, raising the profile of the stove programme and increasing the awareness of the importance of efficient cooking practices and fuel use.

In addition to being used to recruit new households into the stove programme, the demonstration events are used to share information about cooking practices. Cooking with solar stoves represents a major change in cooking behaviour from conventional three-stone open fire cooking. As such it is very important that cooking practices, recipes and techniques using these stoves are well understood by households. Solar stoves cannot be used all the time, and for this reason the fuel-efficient Yoyo stove is promoted alongside solar devices.

All households involved in the programme receive training in stove use, and. Household cooking practices are then surveyed regularly by BVCO staff to enable monitoring of the effectiveness of the programme.



BVCO team train households to construct parabolic stoves

Carbon Management Plans

BVCO continues to work with businesses and individuals to reduce their carbon footprints. BVCO consultants in London work to calculate the carbon footprint of partner individuals and businesses, providing straightforward recommendations to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions and associated energy costs.

BVCO addresses all areas of clients' work and lifestyles in assessing carbon footprints and helping make emissions reductions. Our carbon footprint assessment includes:

- Gas use
- Electricity use
- Transport
- Consumer behaviour

BVCO consultants guarantee to save you money and reduce your carbon emissions by around 20%.

Contact Ellie on ellie@blueventures.org for more information on calculating your carbon footprint and getting started on a Carbon Management Plan.



Different foods are cooked in a solar box oven

Top energy saving tips

Monitor the energy you use – by increasing your awareness of the energy you are using, and its associated costs, you will be more conscious of using it responsibly

Make small behavioural changes

– turn the lights off when you leave a room for longer than a couple of minutes; don't gaze into the refrigerator longingly - shut the refrigerator door quickly; and wash your clothes at 40 degrees or lower. See the [Energy Saving Trust \(www.est.org.uk\)](http://www.est.org.uk) website for more excellent recommendations – www.est.org.uk.

Be conscious of your purchases

– everything we buy has a story behind it. Ask yourself where it has come from. How did it travel to be here? What is it made of? How much energy will it use? Think of both what makes the product, and what the product will use in the future See [Defra energy labeling guidance](http://www.defra.gov.uk) for more tips.

Make energy efficient conversions

– Converting all your regular light bulbs to compact fluorescents and LEDs can save 70 - 80% of the energy that was being used previously. Order them now from the comfort of your armchair from [Efficient Light](http://www.efficientlight.co.uk), (www.efficientlight.co.uk) online.

Think before you fly – Is the trip needed? Are there any ways of getting to the final destination other than by air travel? If traveling for business, consider video conferencing / online meetings as an alternative to making the trip. One return flight to New York will emit as much carbon dioxide as is released from household emissions per person. Can you take the train or an alternative mode of transport? See *The Man in Seat 61*; (www.seat61.com), [LoCO2](http://www.loco2.co.uk), (www.loco2.co.uk).

Morondava Project launches

The Adventure Company - www.adventurecompany.co.uk has shown great support of BVCO's work and is now funding a new project in Morondava, some 250km north of Andavadoaka on the West coast of Madagascar. Every traveler with The Adventure Company contributes £2 (an equivalent of an offsets of 170kg of carbon dioxide).

THE ADVENTURE COMPANY



Fuel-wood collection in South Africa

This new project involves setting up a new fully-staffed project centre for running stove demonstration workshops. The project is being run in association with Association pour le Développement de l'Energie Solaire, (ADES). BVCO looks forward to continued collaboration with ADES and the Adventure Company through 2008.

Contact & further information

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