



SEED Initiative

promoting entrepreneurship for sustainable development

Founding Partners



LOW CARBON WINNER 2014

Green Heat offers an alternative to conventional waste management and environmentally destructive use of charcoal and firewood for home cooking and heating. Household and agricultural waste is funnelled through biogas digesters producing a low-cost, safe and reliable source of energy.



Green Heat, Uganda

BUSINESS MODEL

The enterprise installs and markets three types of biogas digesters to urban and rural households, schools, prisons, hospitals and tourist lodges in Uganda. Households can obtain the digesters with a pay-as-you-go financial plan or renting the appliances in monthly instalments. After-sales services are offered for the first six months after installation.


The three designs – fixed dome, floating drum and flexible balloon – decay organic material collected from agricultural waste or enterprise-designed latrines to produce biogas fuel for cooking and heating.


ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS

Location	Uganda
Year founded	2011
Sector	Waste management
Product/Service	Biogas digesters

Contact

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Social impacts:

- Decreasing air pollution caused by firewood and charcoal used during cooking, which will disproportionately benefit women and children.
- Promoting UN Millennium Development Goals, like reducing poverty in communities.
- Decreasing health problems in communities by improving waste management.

Environmental impacts:

- Reducing deforestation and biodiversity loss by substituting firewood as an energy source.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing wastes and the use of firewood and charcoal.
- Improving water quality by decreasing the leakage of waste into groundwater and reservoirs.

Economic impacts:

- Creating employment opportunities for 50 workers.
- Reducing household workloads associated with firewood collection by two to three hours each day.
- Decreasing health care costs by USD 60–100 per family each year.
- Cutting families' fuel costs; savings total over USD 35,000 each year.

” At the time of idea conception, there was no company in Uganda installing large biogas digesters in schools, Green Heat was the pioneer in this sector.

Scaling up activities:

- Increase biogas digester implementation in communities by installing new digesters hooked to latrines in 37 schools, 30 households and 40 tourist lodges.
- Create 22 new jobs under the national development scheme.
- Increase marketing efforts to encourage communities and institutions to switch from firewood and charcoal to biogas and encourage user confidence in the product, despite high initial installation costs.
- Construct the enterprise's first fixed dome digester out of PET bricks made from plastic bottles, demonstrating an innovative construction method.



” Green Heat produces a renewable and affordable source of cooking fuel that can help reduce Uganda's dependence on firewood and charcoal.



Partnership

• **Green Heat Ltd.** is a company that offers biogas digester construction and after-sales services to rural and semi-urban households and institutions.

• **The Centre for Research in Energy and Energy Conservation (CREEC)** collaborates with the enterprise on the development and testing of biogas appliances. The Centre is equipped with a laboratory for conducting tests and applied research.

• **The Rural Youth Poverty Eradication Initiative (RYPEI)** is a grassroots non-profit organisation that promotes sustainable development and partners with the enterprise to motivate and encourage communities to endorse biogas digesters.



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

The 2014 SEED Low Carbon Awards are largely supported by the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs who while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion. SEED provides these entrepreneurs with know-how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making. For more information please write to info@seedinit.org or visit:

www.seedinit.org

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