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2005-2015
promoting entrepreneurship
for sustainable development

Founding Partners



**AFRICA
WINNER 2015**

Alternative Energy Source for Heating provides briquettes made from rice husks as an energy source for both urban and rural households. Families are consequently less dependent on charcoal or fuelwood, and deforestation and air pollution are reduced. The initiative also promotes youth entrepreneurship.



Alternative Energy Source for Heating, Malawi

BUSINESS MODEL

The enterprise uses rice husks that would otherwise go to waste to provide an alternative domestic energy source in Malawi. Local youth are trained to produce rice husk briquettes and are later connected to potential consumers to whom they sell the products.

Profits from the sales are partially re-invested in the enterprise to finance its operation, and the remaining funds are shared amongst group members.

ENTERPRISE FAST FACTS:

Location	Karonga, Malawi
Year founded	2013
Sector	Energy
Product/Service	Heating briquettes

Social impacts:

- Empowering 1,000 local youth by training them in producing briquettes, soap and candles.
- Creating entrepreneurial opportunities and income for trained youth, allowing them to earn USD 200 a month in order to meet their daily needs.

Environmental impacts:

- Reducing deforestation and carbon emission, and their impact on climate change, by substituting charcoal and fuelwood by less polluting rice briquettes.
- Producing valuable products from unused organic waste from rice husks.

Economic impacts:

- Reducing dependency on scarce forest resources for heating and cooking, and creating a new value chain out of organic waste.
- Creating a new market for young entrepreneurs in Malawi.

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” This innovation provides an alternative source of energy for household use, thus reducing deforestation, smoke and carbon emissions.

Scaling up activities:

- Train 250 youth in making and distributing briquettes, organizing them in a network.
- Acquire equipment to increase production capacity for the briquettes.
- Offer a new training field on building energy-efficient cook stoves.



” Key benefits are new skills and a steady income for out of school girls and boys.



Partnership

• **Alternative Energy Source for Heating** is a social enterprise which trains youth in the production of diverse energy sources.

• **Karonga Young Entrepreneurs** manufactures rice husk briquettes and distributes them mainly to secondary schools and hospitals.

• The **Foundation for Building Resilient Communities** provides capacity building in entrepreneurship to participating youth and facilitates market access.

• **The Ministry of Agriculture of Malawi** supports and promotes the use of rice husk briquettes as an alternative energy source through environmental education.



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The 2015 SEED Awards in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia are supported by the Government of Flanders, which is active in Southern Africa.

About SEED

SEED identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental enterprises around the globe, enterprises who while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion. SEED provides these enterprises 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@seed.uno or visit:

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