

The Honduran Association of Small Renewable Energy Producers (AHPPER); Asociación Hondureña de Pequeños Productores de Energía Renovable

Facilitating the Honduran Governmental Evaluation of Renewable Energy Projects and Improving the Approval Process Phase II

The energy crisis Honduras suffered in 1994 caused many institutions in Honduras to include renewable energy in planning for future energy demand. However, one major barrier for the implementation and construction of renewable energy projects over the last decade has been the lack of an Energy Policy and proper follow up to existing incentive laws. The TPW Energy Collaborative has been working with AHPPER since 2008 to help make the approval process for renewable energy projects more transparent and timely and to increase the status and recognition of AHPPER as an organization. Phase I of the project saw AHPPER gaining a large amount of press and name recognition as a player in the renewable energy policy process/industry in Honduras. AHPPER worked with the Honduran Government to revise the processes that are required to approve a renewable energy project; they supported government activities related to the implementation of the Energy Policy and were successful in creating an Energy Office in the federal government to focus on small-scale renewable energy projects. In addition, AHPPER held 2 major conferences and hosted a regional exchange to Costa Rica with government representatives; has been included on all consulting teams to advise the government on policy directives; has received major press; has put out an educational campaign on renewable energy and how it can work in Honduras; and has been invited to World Bank meetings and invited to submit comments on projects.

Phase II of the project has AHPPER continuing support and assistance to the Honduran Government with the single attention unit (Ventanilla Unica). This attention unit is a department within the government institution SERNA (General Environment Resources Minister) that will give priority to renewable energy projects. AHPPER has been able to work with the new government which came into power in January 2010 to ensure that the government does not lose focus on renewable energy during the transition.

Additionally, AHPPER will continue for six additional months, an educational campaign highlighting the benefits of renewable energy for rural populations. This campaign helps promote the real benefits of renewable energy by educating locals in small communities on how to analyze the benefits and the impacts of renewable energy projects during construction and operation stages. It also promotes different technologies including solar, biomass, wind, and biogas and the present use of them in the communities (schools, irrigation systems and small business). This campaign, which started in August 2009, now has three additional donors and the results in the last 6 months have been impressive, with programming broadcast over the whole country.

