

Fundación Solar

Support the government of Guatemala in the preparation, consultation and approval of biofuels policy

Location: Guatemala

Fundación Solar worked with the Guatemalan government (and in particular the Ministry of Energy and Mines) to implement policy supporting biofuels technology and alternative energy. This project included research and the preparation of initial guidelines based on other biofuels policies in other similar countries, especially those from the Latin American experience.

Fundación Solar produced a report for the Ministry of Energy and Mines with background information and updates on other countries' renewable energy resources, legal frameworks and governmental policies. In this report, they pointed out the relationship between energy, agriculture, and the environment.

The presidential election at the end of 2007 provided Fundación Solar with an opportunity to urge the new officials to implement a biofuels policy.

At the end of the grant year, Fundación Solar had made great progress influencing the government and comparing neighboring countries' use of biofuels. The government of Guatemala published the biofuels policy as a national need. As a result of this grant, Fundación Solar encouraged the government to further consider diversifying their energy sources and technologies. Although guidelines for the biofuels policy were in place, specific policy had not been implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Mines by the end of the grant year.

These are the proposed guidelines for the biofuels policy:

1. Increasing the energy generation capacity by updating the bioenergy potential
2. Incorporating new energy sources for transportation through analysis
3. Action plan for a national biofuels strategy
4. A new lab for testing biofuels

This project lasted longer than one year, as policy work depends on many factors outside the control of an NGO. Fundación Solar has been lobbying effectively to lay the groundwork for real change in the use of biofuels and promotion of renewable energy in Guatemala.

