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Solar Water Heaters

Project Title

Global Solar Water Heating Market Transformation & Strengthening Initiative

Budget

Total: USD13 million
Global Environment Facility (GEF): USD2 million; International Copper Promotion Council of India: USD300,000; and Government of India: USD11 million

Duration

October 2008 – December 2012

Partners

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India; Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Government of India; and International Copper Promotion Council of India

Project Location

All over India

Challenges

India largely relies on non-renewable sources of energy for heating water, both for commercial and domestic use. While water for domestic use is commonly heated with electricity, which costs Rs.3 to 4 per kilowatt hour (kWh), most industrial units depend on oil.

The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, has made significant efforts to develop, test and induct various renewable energy technologies in the country. One of the key initiatives is to promote use of solar water heaters. The government offers a series of incentives for the same.

Response

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Copper Promotion Council of India, the Global Environment Facility and other partners are working together to accelerate and strengthen the growth of solar water heater market in India and to utilise the experiences and lessons learnt in five other countries, i.e., Albania, Algeria, Chile, Lebanon and Mexico. The main barriers related to the market growth of solar water heating systems include five characteristics: policy, finance, business skills, information and technology. The project aims to address some key issues, including i) reform on the supply side of the market to meet the growing demand for quality, ii) awareness building, and iii) replication of lessons learnt in less-explored areas of the country where demand exists.

This project will contribute to installation of least two million square metres of solar water heating system in the country, through better management of the supply chain, increasing general awareness and

promoting incentive programmes. The overall goal is of reaching the target of 10 million square metres of installed solar water heating systems in India by 2012.

Impact

The project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions directly by 11 million tonnes over the next 15 years. The long-term goal of the project is to create a sustainable market for solar water heating systems.

Initial sector-specific studies to facilitate quick implementation of activities on the ground are underway.

For more information, please write to info.in@undp.org

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