



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

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Clean energy drive for homes aims to improve health of thousands

Thousands of lives in Africa and Asia are being improved through an initiative that aims to bring clean energy into homes.

Alternative domestic energy systems such as purpose-grown biofuels, cleaner and more efficient stoves and solar technologies are offering an opportunity to improve health and livelihoods.

The project by researchers at the University of Edinburgh has developed clean energy access for 250,000 people across Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

The programme is improving the accessibility, efficiency and use of alternative energy in Kenya, India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

If current trends continue, 3 billion people will still be cooking with traditional fuels and appliances in 2030, which will result in the deaths of more than 30 million people owing to smoke-related diseases.

To help avert this, Edinburgh's Project Innovation Systems for Clean Energy Security (PISCES) has facilitated the distribution and use of 30,000 efficient gasifier stoves in Tanzania.

The programme has reached an estimated 180,000 people and has directly contributed to reducing Tanzania's smoke-related health problems.

The study was named in the top 20 examples of UK further education institutions benefiting global development.

The UK Centre of Development Science selected PISCES research from 6,975 case studies submitted to the Research Assessment Framework (REF), the system for assessing UK research quality.

Backing for the project has come from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), the Economic and Social Research Council, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Scottish Government.

Ranked among the top universities in the world

Limited access to sustainable energy is one of the major constraints to global development and eliminating poverty.

Professor James Smith, the University of Edinburgh's Vice-Principal International, led the research and said: "We are is committed to making a real impact on clean energy access through our research and partnerships. Projects like PISCES allow us to translate our research into impact around the world."

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