



Better Energy Systems - Sustainability Group

Overview: Sustainability and CSR Projects

Our company was founded on the belief that business must be both profitable and sustainable. There can be no disconnect between commerce and community, and we believe that business must play the leading role in creating a sustainable economy. Therefore, we strive to do business with people and organizations making a real effort to practice social and environmental responsibility.

In addition to thinking 'outside the grid' to bring renewable energy to people around the world, we donate a percentage of our profits to our partners and projects. We urge everyone we do business with to match our donations, and we also encourage our customers to get involved in a way that makes sense for them. Our projects are designed to impact the triple bottom line of people, planet, and profit.

Did you know ... ?

Over the next five years, we will import and use 2.5 billion chargers for handheld electronics in the U.S. alone. These chargers will create a total of 9 billion kilograms of carbon - equivalent to the pollution created by five year's-worth of driving by 1.8 million American cars.

Also, over a twelve month period, 100,000 mobile phone users charging their phones produce:

- 172,500 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent in volume of 6 million basketballs
- 412 pounds of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) equivalent of 3.6 million ping pong balls
- 348 pounds of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) equivalent of 3 million ping pong balls

This data comes from the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany, which also helped our company perform a full toxicity analysis on Solio during development, to ensure that the product is as sustainable as possible.

As a company which specializes in clean technology, we are constantly seeking new and innovative ways to leverage our products for social and environmental causes. Below are just a few examples.



MILLION POINTS OF LIGHT

Million Points of Light (MPOL) is an innovative project that combines Better Energy's portable solar technology with LED lights to fight poverty and global warming. With help from our strategic partners, Better Energy aims to distribute one million solar-LED bundles to selected villages in Africa. A creative combination of African entrepreneurship and marketing, MPOL will create sustainable opportunities for village entrepreneurs; improve literacy for school children; offset the use of dangerous and polluting fuels in the home; and give renewable, clean light to those at the bottom of the economic pyramid.

TEAM RWANDA

Solio is a key sponsor of Rwanda's first national cycling team. The team was started by a group of American cyclists who saw that the bicycle can be an important tool in rebuilding a country, building national pride and addressing local issues facing Rwanda and other African nations. Solio keeps the team members powered-up and communicating as they cross Rwanda spreading hope and lessons of health and sustainability.



VILLAGE PHONE PROGRAM

Access to electricity and affordable telecommunications simply does not exist for millions in the developing world. Grameen Foundation's Village Phone Program brings telecommunications to people in a sustainable, profitable and em-powering way. Village Phone Operators sell talk-time on mobile phones to villagers, connecting rural communities and creating positive impacts that reach every aspect of peoples' lives. We give Solio to Village Phone Operators so that they can run their phone businesses with portable solar power, rather than having to rely on car batteries.

