

Sustainable biomass project in Morocco wins Energy Globe Award

On 20 May, at the Austrian Embassy in Paris, GERES was awarded the Energy Globe Award for its work in Morocco over the last six years disseminating efficient gas ovens as an alternative to the intensive use of charcoal, which is responsible for the country's deforestation



From left to right: Mr. Herbert Preclik (advisor to the Austrian Embassy in France); Mrs. Marie-Noëlle Reboulet (GERES representative in Paris); Mrs. Christel Olimé (GERES Partnership Officer); Mr. Jean-Claude Chassagnoux (GERES administrator), Mrs. Laurence Moret (Crédit Coopératif's Press Relations and Institutional Partnerships Director).

The Energy Globe Award is an Austrian prize awarded to initiatives that conserve natural resources and use renewable energies or resources that do not create CO₂ emissions.

GERES was rewarded **for its integrated project in Morocco** aimed at sustainable energy management in rural areas. This work takes the form of two complementary components that are adapted to the rural communities: on the one hand, the dissemination of efficient ovens for baking bread and, on the other, the sustainable management of local biomass energy.

In terms of ovens, GERES is beginning to roll-out efficient gas ovens which should, gradually, replace the traditional wood burning ovens. Energy-intensive and inefficient, these traditional ovens emit huge amounts of harmful smoke and cause **serious respiratory illnesses**.

The gas ovens also have an advantage for women and children in that they do away with the arduous task of having to collect firewood. As the forest began to disappear, this task was becoming increasingly difficult and they were having to go further and further to find wood.

In addition, the lack of sustainable forest management is resulting in **significant deforestation**, which in turn is causing **serious soil erosion**.

The project has distributed efficient gas ovens to **40 villages** in the municipalities of Brikcha, Ain Beyda and Tanakoub.

Find out more

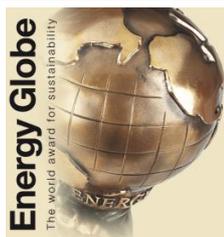
In pictures: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULshaghCRx0

From the website: [Energy Globe award](#)

Future prospects

Objectives for 2015: scale-up production for a **greater roll-out** of the project. The project anticipates providing ovens to another six rural municipalities in the Bouchachem regional park (Rif mountains) and two more in the Asrou-Midelt Sefrou (Middle Atlas) environmental corridor.

About the Energy Globe Award



The Energy Globe Award was founded in 1999 by the Austrian energy pioneer, Wolfgang Neumann, and is one of today's most prestigious environmental awards.

The goal of the Award is to present successful sustainable projects that offer solutions to our environmental problems to a wider audience.

www.energyglobe-foundation.com

About GERES



Established in 1976, GERES – Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity – is a development NGO whose objective is to improve the living conditions of the poorest communities by implementing projects that will increase their access to energy, preserve the environment and combat climate change and its consequences.

The association uses development engineering and specific technical expertise in partnership with communities and local actors. It now has 230 staff running almost 60 innovative development projects both in France and in 12 countries of the South.

www.geres.eu

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