



# TOSHIBA CARBON ZERO SCHEME

## UN Sustainable Development Goals

- > The UN has 17 measurable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), several of which are supported by the Toshiba CarbonZero scheme. This report focuses on **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**, explaining the impact of Toshiba's offsetting programme and its link to this goal.
- > SDG 8 is aiming to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. This includes supporting micro-scale enterprises through access to capital.
- > The Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme supports the ongoing activities to promote and disseminate improved cook stoves in Kenya. These stoves replace the traditional 3-stone fires, which require vast amounts of firewood and emit large amounts of greenhouse gases. Reducing the dependence of communities on firewood removes a major cause of deforestation, with enhanced tree growth improving the water retention of soils, improving communities' access to groundwater.

### FACTS

- > The economies of developing countries are mainly growing at a very fast rate, with average annual growth rates of 3.1% in 2014, compared to 1.4% for developed countries. However, the fruits of this growth are not evenly distributed, with living standards often improving rapidly in urban areas whilst rural areas are left behind.
- > Global unemployment stood at 6.1% in 2015, down from a peak of 6.6% in 2009. However, this trend is mainly due to reduced unemployment in developed regions recovering from the financial crisis and does not reflect reduced unemployment in developing regions.
- > Economic growth and employment are certainly crucial for poverty alleviation, but mean little to poor rural families in developing countries if they lack access to capital to invest in their own income-generating activities.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL CASE STUDY

In 2015, CarbonZero Kenya began researching potential groups in Kisumu West in Kenya that could undertake the hefty task of manufacturing 900 fuel-efficient cookstoves for promotion under the Toshiba CarbonZero scheme. The Umeme Women's Group, a small female business and mutual support group, was eventually selected.

Judith Okeyo, a member of the group, recounts how she had very little knowledge of alternatives to using the inefficient 3-stone fire for cooking prior to her group's selection to take part in the scheme. Like many residents of Kisumu West, her family was suffering from the escalating deforestation in Kisumu West wrought by the pressure on forests for firewood. With wood itself becoming increasingly scarce, her family had little option but to buy firewood, which would at time account for almost 50% of household income, presenting a vast financial burden simply to be able to cook.

The turning point came in 2015, when Umeme Women's Group was selected to be part of the CarbonZero scheme. The group received training in how to source the supplies and manufacture artisanal stoves, and also received business management training to help them market the stoves and manage sales and income. The group members now also act as experts in their own community who support stove owners to maintain stoves which have cracked or otherwise become damaged. Judith has gone from knowing nothing about fuel-efficient stoves to becoming an expert on the subject in the space of 2 years.

In addition to promoting a stove that greatly reduces the burden on households to obtain firewood and vastly reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the group members themselves received a great financial boost through their engagement in the project.

The group operates a revolving fund which several members have subsequently been able to borrow from to support their own household level small businesses, particularly in selling groceries locally. Group members also receive income for the time they spend working on producing stoves.



Judith has been able to make great improvements to her family's livelihood through the combination of income she has received and money she has saved from not needing to buy firewood. For example, she has been able to complete repair work on her house which had been dragging on for several years, thereby providing a proper living environment for her family, as well as saving the funds to support her children's education in years to come.

### Toshiba's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals

This case study shows how the project activities in Kenya contribute to SDG 8 in the following ways:

- › The physical and theoretical training received by members of the Umeme Women's Group has enabled them to generate significant income and to raise their professional skill levels, whilst conducting a positive activity for the environment and livelihoods.
- › This has a knock-on effect of unlocking funds that group members can use to grow their own small businesses, thereby generating wider economic growth at the local level.
- › The additional household income from these businesses also enables families to guarantee education to their children, thereby supporting their access in the long-term to decent jobs.

For more information about the Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme please visit our website:  
[www.toshibatec.eu/about/sustainability/carbon-zero/](http://www.toshibatec.eu/about/sustainability/carbon-zero/)

In cooperation with



**Toshiba Tec Germany Imaging Systems GmbH**

Carl-Schurz-Str. 7  
41460 Neuss  
Germany

**Website**

[www.toshibatec.eu](http://www.toshibatec.eu)

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