



# 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 10: Reduced Inequalities** explaining the impact of the Toshiba Carbon Zero Scheme and its link to this goal.
- > SDG 10 is aiming to promote and sustain income growth for the bottom 40 per cent of the global population at a rate exceeding national averages. Achieving this requires facilitating access to capital and high-quality jobs.
- > The Toshiba CarbonZero Scheme has been supporting the Kenya Cook Stove Project since it first began. The efficient nature of the stove halves the amount of firewood needed, saving time and money on collecting firewood. In some areas people have to purchase permits to access local forests. The time saved means that that can focus on agriculture activities, thereby improving household food security.

### 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.
- > Inequality is also stark on a global scale, with the richest 10% of the global population earning approximately 40% of global income, whilst the poorest 10% of the population earns approximately 2% of global income.
- > In developing countries such as Kenya, inequality between the sexes is a major challenge, with women's potential to independently pursue careers and earn their own income frequently hampered by the weight of their domestic responsibilities. This concentrates responsibility for household income generation in their male relatives, thereby reducing women's ability to make key household decisions due to economic dependence on men.

### Kenyan Cook Stove Case Study

Dennis Omer is 22 and lives in Kadero village in Kisumu East with his wife and 4 children. The family used to do all of their cooking on a 3-stone open fire before obtaining a fuel-efficient cookstove through the Toshiba CarbonZero scheme. Dennis recounts how the family used to spend hours every day gathering firewood to be able to cook, with the children sent out for at least 2 hours every evening after school, which ate into valuable time that could be spent on their homework. Family members would also frequently become sick and cough frequently due to smoke inhalation, with rarely a week passing without at least one child being forced to miss a day of school.

Since receiving the stove, the family's firewood consumption has reduced to less than half of its previous amount. This means that the adults in the house are now able to gather the firewood needed for the day first thing in the morning, and then have the rest of the day to focus on more productive activities. The children, meanwhile, scarcely ever have to help gather firewood and have much more time to spend on their homework.

For his part, Dennis has taken advantage of the time saved on gathering firewood to plant a field of sunflowers. His plan is to harvest the seed to sell to a sunflower oil factory a few kilometres away, which guarantees him the ability to sell a bulk volume of seed and generate a significant contribution to household income.

Considering that it is possible to harvest sunflowers up to 4 times a year, this promises to bring a significant regular income to the household.



*"I will be able to earn about 1,000,000 shillings from the sale of this produce and with this, I will be able to pay school fees and buy stationary for the children, purchase extra food for the family and cover any medical fees among others. With this Toshiba CarbonZero stove, we no longer spend hours every day in search of firewood for domestic use. This has given us so much time to concentrate on other activities that can help improve on our livelihoods. My children are now good performers at school."*

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

This case study shows how the project activities in Kenya contribute to SDG 10 in the following ways:

- The time previously spent gathering firewood can now be spent on lucrative income-generating activities in poor rural areas, thereby raising incomes in these areas.
- Access to education is also improved, as children do not have to dedicate valuable time to gathering firewood and are less likely to miss school due to illnesses caused by smoke inhalation. This makes a long-term contribution to ensure that they are well-educated and have access to high-quality jobs in future.
- Overall trends to improve income and education levels in marginalised rural areas show the impact of the Toshiba CarbonZero stove in improving livelihoods in poor rural areas, thereby reducing marginalisation in these areas and contributing to closing the urban-rural divide.

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/)

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