Dubai-based developer partners with clean cooking firm to deploy 1.2 mln digitally monitored stoves across Africa

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A Dubai-headquartered project developer announced Monday it has partnered with a Nairobi-based clean cooking company to distribute 1.2 million digitally monitored biomass and electric cookstoves across four African countries.

The project, led by AIM Carbon in partnership with Burn Manufacturing, is designed to meet the eligibility requirements for CORSIA-aligned carbon credits, the UAE-based firm said in a press release.

The programme, expected to reduce around 20 mln tonnes of CO2 over its lifetime, will be rolled out in Malawi, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Nigeria, with distribution already underway in Malawi following receipt of a letter of authorisation from national authorities.

The project uses digital monitoring, reporting, and verification (dMRV) technologies, including induction stoves equipped with GSM and Bluetooth, to enable real-time tracking of electricity usage and share data with regulators, rating agencies, and academic institutions.

“This partnership will deliver real, measurable impact for millions of households across Africa while ensuring the highest-quality carbon credits the market has ever seen,” said Igor Akhmerov, CEO of AIM Carbon.

The initiative applies methodologies approved by Gold Standard for use under the CORSIA international aviation offset scheme’s current Phase 1, including TPDDTEC v4.0 for biomass cookstoves and MMECD v1.2 for metered electric cooking devices.

Both methodologies have been approved by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM) as Core Carbon Principles (CCP) compliant.

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The developers plan to conduct more than three times the number of usage surveys required by Gold Standard’s guidelines, targeting a 99% confidence level and 10% margin of error on usage results.

Digital monitors will be installed on 5–10% of biomass stoves, and the project will use conservative emissions reduction estimates based on the MoFuSS (Modelling Fuelwood Savings Scenarios) tool for calculating the fraction of non-renewable biomass.

Earlier in May, Burn announced that it expects its carbon credits to be soon be labelled with the CCP stamp of high integrity, the first in the market from the sector, after slashing emissions reduction claims via the MoFuSS accounting method.

Cookstove projects are designed to replace traditional, dirtier stoves with more efficient alternatives, reducing GHG emissions, deforestation, and indoor air pollution.

The sector represents one of the fastest-growing types of voluntary emissions reductions, with around 15% of total projects currently on the market.

Proponents, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), claim that these initiatives offer significant health and social benefits, particularly in developing regions where wood and other biomass are the primary fuels for cooking.

However, a study published last year claimed that the climate benefits of these projects may have been exaggerated by up to 1,000%.

In general, this and previous critiques, have focused on inflated claims regarding the reduction in carbon emissions and deforestation, and on the challenges in monitoring whether the stoves are being used effectively over time.

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