CLEAN COOKING ALLIANCE

Climate, Environment, and Clean Cooking

The Problem

Globally, three billion people depend on polluting, open fires or inefficient stoves to cook their food, harming health, the climate, and the environment. Inefficient combustion of solid fuels like wood, charcoal, animal dung, crop residue, and coal produces a range of climate-damaging emissions. Cooking this way not only releases greenhouse gases (GHGs) like carbon dioxide (CO_2), but also short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). The most significant SLCP emitted by traditional cooking practices is black carbon, a component of particulate matter emissions. Since the atmospheric lifetime of black carbon is only a few days, reducing black carbon emissions can bring about a more rapid climate response than reductions in GHGs alone. In addition, unsustainable harvesting of wood for fuel not only contributes to forest and environmental degradation, but is a major driver of climate change.

The Solution

Clean cooking is a proven and critical part of the climate solution. Today's highly efficient stoves can reduce fuel use by 30-60%, resulting in fewer GHG and black carbon emissions. The global community cannot reach its goal of addressing climate change without addressing the way people cook. Scaling up clean cooking can address climate change while simultaneously providing significant improvements to global health, as well as benefits to women's empowerment and local economies.

Environmental Impacts of Cooking

- **120 megatons of climate pollutants are emitted every year** from cooking over open fires and inefficient stoves.
- **Up to 58% of black carbon emissions** come from burning solid fuels for cooking and heating in homes.
- **Black carbon is the second largest contributor** to climate change after carbon dioxide.
- **Sea ice melt is, in part, caused by black carbon emissions from cooking** that end up deposited in the Arctic.
- **Up to 34% of woodfuel harvested is unsustainable,** contributing to forest degradation and climate change.
- **Over 275 million people live in woodfuel "hotspots,"** which are areas where over 50% of woodfuel harvesting is unsustainable.

Priorities for Action

The following priorities are key to mitigating climate change and protecting the environment through the scale-up of cleaner, more modern stoves and fuels:

1. **Integrate provisions for clean cooking into climate and renewable energy funds,** such as the Green Climate Fund. Financing must be flexible, accessible, and match the needs of organizations that have the ability to reach the last mile and make sustainable impacts.
2. **Support private and public investment** to companies producing and distributing cookstoves and fuels that can deliver measurable climate benefits.
3. **Integrate clean cooking and heating within national programming** to address forest degradation and climate change (such as in REDD+ programs).
4. **Support evidence-based methodologies** for monitoring, verifying, and reporting on clean cooking projects and programs that are scaled up through carbon and climate finance targeting reductions in CO_2 and SLCPs.
5. **Support the inclusion and financing of interventions to scale clean cooking** and address household air pollution in strategies and efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement.
6. **Promote clean cooking as a solution that delivers multiple-benefits** for climate change, air pollution, and other development goals to enable countries to make ambitious commitments and take faster action.

Clean Cooking and the SDGs

As the world implements the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addresses climate change, it is particularly important that we invest in proven, scalable solutions like clean cooking that bring cross-cutting and economically inclusive impacts. Clean cooking directly delivers across 10 of the SDGs, including Goal 13 on climate. Clean cooking will play a key role in delivering on the Paris Climate Agreement, with more than 30 countries including clean cooking in their Nationally Determined Contributions.

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About the Clean Cooking Alliance

The Clean Cooking Alliance works with a global network of partners to build an inclusive industry that makes clean cooking accessible to the three billion people who live each day without it. Established in 2010, the Alliance is driving consumer demand, mobilizing investment to build a pipeline of scalable businesses, and fostering an enabling environment that allows the sector to thrive. Clean cooking transforms lives by improving health, protecting the climate and the environment, empowering women, and helping consumers save time and money. Learn more about our work at www.CleanCookingAlliance.org.

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