



green empowerment

Village Solutions for Global Change since 1997

the **women** who lead_{us}

2018 Annual Report



The next generation of community leaders from San Miguel Negro, Ecuador who joined us for a walkthrough of their new water system.

what makes us resilient

Dear friends,

Green Empowerment has a rich history of making progress, despite conflict and achieving excellence, despite hardship. Last year was a challenging one for our organization - from the passing of our gracious Board Chair, Linda Boise, to political turmoil in Nicaragua, to a world of geopolitical, environmental and economic forces beyond our control. We faced roadblocks, literal and organizational, but found a way to fulfill our commitments to communities and supporters, like you, who fuel our efforts.

I am proud to share our stories of success with you in this report. I am continually impressed by the **resilience** of our team, partners and the communities with whom we work. Together, we brought clean water, renewable energy and new opportunities to 35,000 people in 2018.

One of these people is Maricela Obando. Maricela is from Pailón, Ecuador, a small community on the River Sucio only accessible by foot or canoe. In the spring of 2016, Pailón was devastated by a vast earthquake, leaving Maricela and her isolated community further behind. This tragic event mobilized Maricela, who resolved to make Pailón more resilient so that her children, and children's children, can lead happier, healthier lives. Green Empowerment and ALTRÓPICO helped the people of Pailón construct a new potable water system that Maricela now manages, as community-elected president of the Pailón Water Committee. She is responsible for water system operation and maintenance, tariff collection, volunteer management and more.

In San Miguel Negro, Ecuador we worked with ALTRÓPICO to construct a potable water system equipped with slow-sand filters. Johanna Veloz, Green Empowerment Ecuador Fellow, is pictured below (second from right) with members of the local water system committee.

When I visited Pailón last year, Maricela and I traveled together in a small canoe to join a community meeting upriver. During the meeting, it was clear that the people of Pailón were ready to build a sustainable future - from new infrastructure to very capable leadership. I was particularly inspired by Maricela's enthusiasm and commitment to bringing all voices to the table.

We dedicate our 2018 Annual Report to the women, like Maricela, who lead us.

We hope that by sharing their stories, you are reminded that by empowering women, we empower all. Next year we may experience challenges, but we are optimistic because the women we work with are determined to create an equitable world in which future generations can thrive. Green Empowerment is committed to bringing resources, education and agency to women and communities that are the most vulnerable *and* the most capable of making positive change. By supporting our organization, you are leading the way, too.

Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,



Andrea Johnson
Executive Director



Andrea



Maricela



Our Vision

Here at Green Empowerment, we envision an equitable and sustainable world where everyone has clean water, renewable energy and a healthy environment in which to grow and thrive.

Our Approach

Since 1997, we have helped nearly 408,800 people pave a pathway to drive their own development.

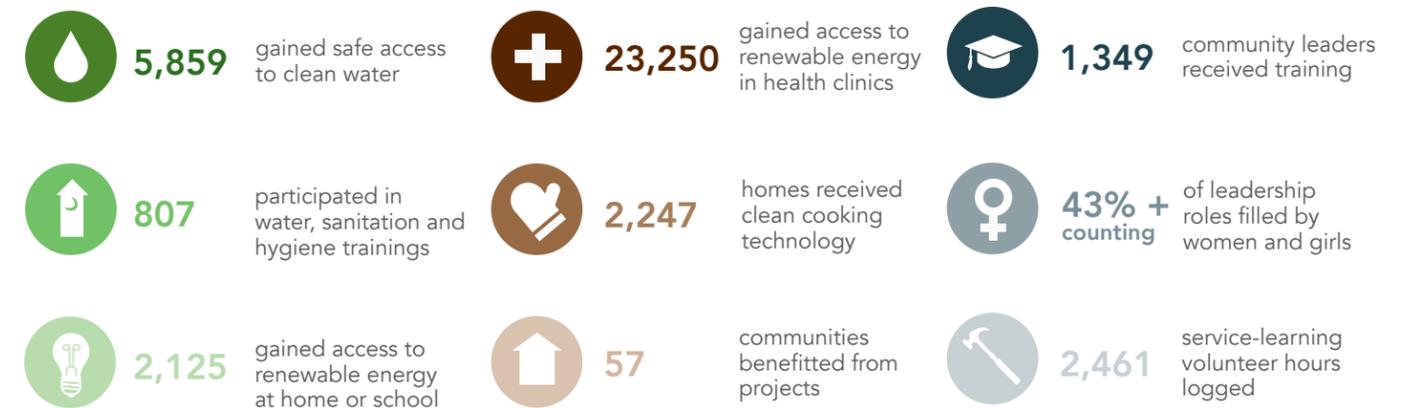
Partnership. We partner with in-country organizations to implement renewable energy, clean water and complementary sanitation, environmental and economic projects.

Engagement. We engage communities from start to finish to build ownership and ensure long-term project viability.

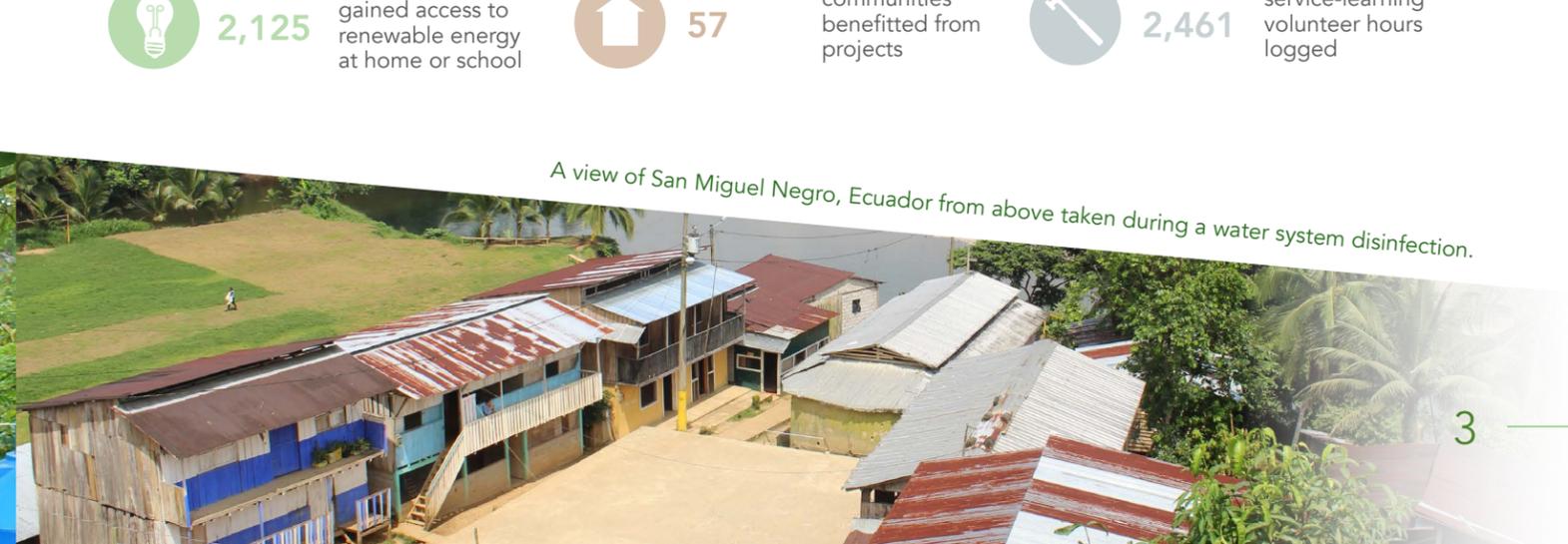
Capacity Building. We provide technical expertise, training, funding and additional resources to build local capacity.

Impact Expansion. We amplify our impact through regional networks, technical trainings and service-learning programs.

2018



A view of San Miguel Negro, Ecuador from above taken during a water system disinfection.



Our Reach

Bolivia

In partnership with Practical Action, we brought improved cook stoves to 65 households in the highlands and clean water systems to 11 communities affected by flooding along the Beni River in the Amazon.

Colombia

In partnership with EL COMUN, we installed 20 biodigesters and pig husbandry systems. In partnership with ALTRÓPICO, we installed 50 solar PV systems with indigenous Awá families and brought clean water to over 170 families along the Colombia-Ecuador border.

Ecuador

In partnership with RedBioEc, we installed 15 biodigesters and trained over 100 practitioners through the Ecuadorian Biodigester Network. In partnership with ALTRÓPICO, we brought clean drinking water to four communities and over 190 families in Esmeraldas, and successfully launched a pre-fabricated, portable improved cook stove model.

Malaysian Borneo

In partnership with TONIBUNG, we worked with the indigenous peoples of Terian and Long Liam to install three micro-hydro and one solar-micro-hydro systems. We joined practitioners from TONIBUNG, PACOS Trust and KOPEL for a week of biodigester knowledge exchange and hands-on training at the Wayamba Training Institute in Sri Lanka.

Myanmar

In partnership with Border Green Energy Team (BGET), we installed solar PV systems in 11 clinics in Karen State, including six in the Hpa-An District, serving 18,000 patients each year. We trained an additional 60 health workers on system installation and maintenance.

Woman Who Leads: Salinee Hurley

Meet Salinee, an engineer and social entrepreneur who serves as the Director of Border Green Energy Team (BGET). Salinee believes that renewable energy projects are most successful when trust is built and knowledge is shared so that communities have the expertise and agency to take charge of their projects.



Salinee

We worked with Practical Action Bolivia to bring improved cook stoves to families in Huarina. Families chose from three stove types designed to reduce wood usage and smoke in households.



Maria

Jheny

Nicaragua

Despite civil unrest, we safely installed seven community water systems with partners AsoFenix and ATDER-BL, benefiting over 3,500 people. We trained communities on water system management and hygiene and sanitation practices. We also launched a Healthy Schools Program at five schools bringing new kitchens, gardening and nutrition education to 285 students.

Woman Who Leads: Maria Elisa Espinoza

Meet Maria, Nicaragua native and Green Empowerment Program Fellow. Maria worked diligently with partner AsoFenix to advance projects quickly and thoughtfully, despite unrest. She conducted project evaluations and water, sanitation and hygiene trainings. She also advanced two of our newly established revolving funds, scaling access to solar energy.

Peru

In partnership with Practical Action, we brought solar energy to three clinics in the highlands, benefiting over 5,000 people. We also installed 2,000 improved cook stoves in households in the North and South.

Woman Who Leads: Jheny Judith Castillo Muños

Meet Nurse Jheny of the Membrillar Health Post in Contumaza. For over 18 years, she fought to provide basic services to isolated communities in Cajamarca. Last year, we brought solar energy, clean water, water heating and a laptop and printer to her clinic so she never has to walk six hours to make a copy, or ask the neighbors to boil water to help a child's fever go down.

The Philippines

We worked with local health officials to build a community water system in Barangay Maligue, bringing clean water to over 1,000 indigenous peoples in conflict-affected Mindanao.

Technology

Biodigesters

Ten renewable energy practitioners from TONIBUNG, PACOS Trust and KOPEL attended a biodigester training at the Wayamba Training Institute in Sri Lanka. Participants learned about biodigester design, installation and maintenance, as well as community organizing. They also constructed a pilot biodigester in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo - the state's first.

Electronic Load Controllers

Electrical Design Engineer, Dan Frydman, worked closely with TONIBUNG and SIBAT to develop the first working prototype of an open-source, locally fabricated electronic load controller (ELC) for micro-hydro systems in Malaysian Borneo. ELCs ensure electrical current flows within safe parameters and open access allows for adoption throughout the region.

"A special thank you to WISONS of Sustainability for helping us connect practitioners around the world through technical knowledge exchange. Their support of our projects, research and regional networks helps us build local capacity and make a more sustainable impact." - Elise Kittrell, Green Empowerment Technical Manager

Water Quality Standards and Treatment

With Technical Advisor, Narasimha Kumar, we finalized our water quality manual and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) toolkits. Elise trained our partners during a six-month tour of our projects in Latin America. Lessons were reinforced through hands-on practice and are now being shared with partners in Asia. With Technical Advisor, Andy Szatkowski, we developed a water treatment system - that is simple and easy to maintain - to remove iron and manganese from drinking water in communities along the Beni River in Bolivia.

Portable Improved Cook Stoves

With Technical Advisor, Richard Koehler, we successfully developed and tested a portable improved cook stove model. This light-weight cook stove is easy to transport, allowing us to reach isolated indigenous communities along the Colombia-Ecuador border.

Networks

Micro-Hydro Empowerment Network (HPNET)

We work with HPNET to improve micro-hydro systems and expand the knowledge of the practitioners who build them in South and Southeast Asia - from our work on ELCs (above) to developing practitioner-approved grid codes and standards for system delivery.

Biodigester Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (RedBioLAC)

Green Empowerment is the Secretariat for RedBioLac, managing the network and many of its convenings. Last year, their annual conference brought nearly 200 people to Brazil to discuss biodigester design and identify opportunities for collaboration and research.

GlobalPDX

GlobalPDX is a hub for global changemakers in Oregon and Green Empowerment chairs its Steering Committee. Last year, their annual conference gathered nearly 200 students and professionals. They also host workshops and monthly "Development Drinks."

Elise Kittrell, Green Empowerment Technical Manager, poses with community members in Huatapampa, Bolivia who helped install and benefitted from a solar pumping irrigation system. The project was so successful, they made plans to expand their reach.



Service-Learning

Service Trips. For over a decade, Green Empowerment has invited groups and individuals to learn about sustainable, international development through service-learning. Students and professionals receive unique, hands-on experience advancing our clean water, renewable energy and complementary projects, while exploring a new place and learning how to work in a collaborative, multicultural environment.

“My service trip to Ecuador was one of the best experiences of my life. It doesn’t take a lot of people or money to make a difference. I’m confident in my ability as an individual to make an impact and will continue serving for the rest of my life.” - University of Idaho trip participant

Woman Who Leads: Lisa Hall

Meet Lisa, a water resource engineer and Green Empowerment volunteer who embarked on a year-long journey to Rurrenabaque, Bolivia last year to bring clean water to communities affected by devastating floods along the Beni River. Lisa and her husband, Steve, logged an impressive 1,620 volunteer hours, and counting.

Project Tours. Green Empowerment conducted its first official project tour in 2017 to give board members a chance to observe projects, meet partners and hear communities’ stories first-hand. We now invite all Green Empowerment supporters to strengthen their ties to our organization by participating in this annual tour.

Woman Who Leads: Linda Boise

Meet Linda, former Board Chair and gracious friend. Last July, Linda passed away unexpectedly - a devastating loss to staff and volunteers who were inspired by her dedication to advancing social justice at Green Empowerment and beyond. From visiting our projects in Ecuador, Malaysian Borneo and the Philippines, to raising funds to support them, to leading a health task force to increase their impact, her efforts will shape our work for years to come.



Lisa



Linda

Gabe Wynn, Green Empowerment Asia Regional Director (center) working with BGET to bring solar power to clinics in Lay Kay Kaw, Myanmar.

Our Team

Staff

Amanda Morse (Financial Support), Andrea Johnson (Executive Director), Caitlyn Peake (Latin America Regional Director), Dan Frydman (Electrical Design Engineer), Elise Kittrell (Technical Manager), Elsa Frey (Program Manager), Gabriel Wynn (Asia Regional Director), Gigi Arroyo (Philippines Finance Manager), Johanna Veloz (Ecuador Program Fellow), Jojo Fajardo (Philippines Program Manager), Koto Kishida (Malaysia Program Officer), Kristen Grauer (Development Manager), Maria Elisa Espinoza (Nicaragua Program Fellow), Martin Olza (Operations Manager), Orlan Letran (Philippines Technical Officer), Sam Schlesinger (Ecuador Program Manager)

Board of Directors

David Siegel (Chair), Eli Lamb, Erick Petersen (Treasurer), Francie Royce, Harrison Pettit, Kathy Fry, Linda Boise (Former Chair), Melanie Billings-Yun, Rebecca Eaton, Shiao Yen Chin-Dennis, Wendy Stickel (Secretary)

Associate Board

Ary Hashim, Caitin Horsley, Carly Vendegna, Ferman Mock, Paul Hawkins, Reilly Loveland

Technical Advisory Committee

Andy Szatkowski, Barbara Pizacani, Chris Baker, Daniel M. Kammen, Dexter Gauntlett, Jeff Hammarlund, Jordan Weisman, Michel Maupoux, Mike Stangl, Narasimha Kumar, Nordica MacCarty, Richard Koehler

(Left to right) Koto, Caitlyn, Elise, Sam, Kristen, Jojo, Andrea, Martin, Gabe

Partners & Networks - Asia

Border Green Energy Team (BGET), Forever Sabah, IBEKA, Janathakshan, Micro-Hydro Empowerment Network (HPNET), PACOS Trust, SIBAT, TONIBUNG, Yamog

Partners & Networks - Latin America

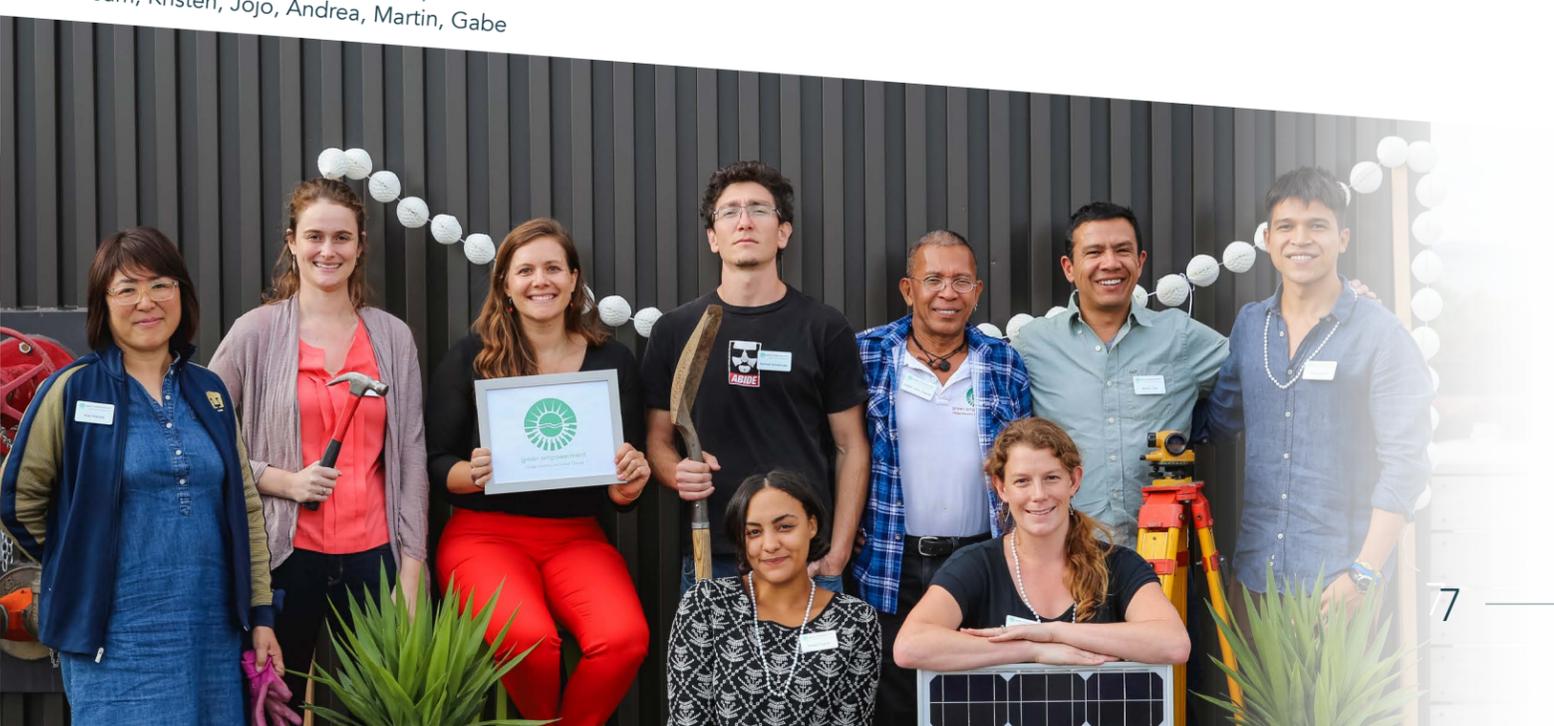
Association of Rural Development Workers – Benjamin Linder (ATDER-BL), AsoFenix, El COMUN, El Gorrión Coffee Cooperative, Foundation for the Development of Community Alternatives for the Conservation of the Tropics (ALTRÓPICO), Colombian Biodigester Network (RedBioCol), Ecuadorian Biodigester Network (RedBioEc), Biodigester Network of Latin America and the Caribbean (RedBioLAC), Practical Action Bolivia, Practical Action Peru

Volunteers and Interns

Daniel Bini (Here Today Photography), Brian Daily (Nicaragua Intern), Kaitlin Elias (Technical Intern), Lisa Hall (International Volunteer), Lee Hunt (Administrative Volunteer), Steve Meicke (International Volunteer), Cherry Ni (GlobalPDX Intern), Kim Nguyen (Photos by Kim), Brian Reynolds (Photography), Jesica Sutandi (Malaysia Intern)

Connect

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empower by giving

How to Give

Visit our secure website, mail or call.

www.greenempowerment.org
140 SW Yamhill Street
Portland, OR 97204
503-284-5774

Give through your workplace.

Connect to Green Empowerment through workplace giving, event sponsorship or employee matching.

Give the gift of change.

Consider honoring a family member or friend by donating in their name. On your birthday, request donations instead of gifts.

Join the Reuss Legacy Circle.

Add Green Empowerment to your estate plan, retirement plan or life insurance plan and connect with other supporters who made a profound commitment to our organization. Henry and Margaret Reuss were our first legacy givers. Their contribution gave us the financial foundation to hire new staff, explore new partnerships, expand to new countries, invest in program infrastructure and build organizational reserves. Circle members make a lasting impact and receive exclusive benefits, including an invitation to our annual project tour, an annual Executive Director call and more.

Green Empowerment is a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in Portland, Oregon in 1997.



Financials

Now, more than ever, Green Empowerment needs your support. As indicated below, our 2018 financials show a discrepancy between revenue and expenses. This discrepancy was anticipated because we closed out a number of projects that received funding in previous years. We are grateful to have a Board Reserve Fund that provided a financial foundation for us to grow our team and expand our impact, while fulfilling past commitments to our supporters, partners and communities. Our audited financial statements are available on our website. Our audit was conducted by Richard Winkel, LLC.

