



**P+SITIVE PLANET
INTERNATIONAL**

Economic growth through sustainable access to renewable energy solutions in rural Lesotho

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**Rural Self-Help
Development Association**
Mokhatlo oa Ba Ithusang Ho Itšebeletsa Metseng




reciprocity



Co-funded by the European Union

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Public lecture at the University of Pretoria

On September 26, Positive Planet International was invited to speak at one of the open lectures organised by the University of Pretoria as part of the program “Photosynthesis and Photovoltaic”. Larissa Setaro was asked to talk about PPI’s experience and lessons learned in trying to reach rural communities in Southern Africa markets with solar energy technologies. She focused her presentation on the best practices in delivering solar energy solutions and some of the challenges and solutions from the experience of the current project being implemented in rural Lesotho.

The primary audience was students pursuing engineering and physics degree programmes. The relevance of this talk for the students was to discuss the different stages of technologies and key considerations when entering emerging markets. The students were very engaged and this gave them an opportunity to think about their career beyond the academic path.

An addition to our lighting mix!

Finding the right products for our customers is our priority. We took the time required to source quality lighting solutions to sell to our customers on a sustainable basis with delivery right at their door-step. The products are easy to install, cost saving and eco-friendly.

We now have in stock **solar lights and solar home systems from SunKing!** These lamps do not only provide lighting after sunset, but also phone charging for ease of communication. The lamps are simple, easy and safe to use. Our customers can perform household tasks when it is dark and students can study without risking their health.



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Training of IDs on climate change and EERE devices

One of the main objectives of the project is to create a distribution channel that would shorten distances and facilitate access to alternatives to traditional energy sources for rural households. To establish a robust distribution network, the project aims at working through Independent Distributors (IDs) i.e. people identified within farmers groups that are trusted by the community and have good networks, which will ease the promotion and distribution of EERE devices.

In the first week of October, the project team trained 24 IDs (of which 16 are women) on climate change and EERE products. Through this 3-days training, the IDs learned about the benefits of using solar lamps and solar home systems, the positive impact of these products on the environment and the livelihoods of rural communities. Since then 13 additional IDs have been recruited to fully cover the five targeted districts.



RSDA Training of trainers

In early November, the RSDA team embarked on an intensive four days training workshop that prepared Field Officers to train IDs on sales, marketing and skills to become entrepreneur. FOs were given the opportunity to practice through role playing, to share what they learned and their perspectives. Following completion of the training of trainers' week, each FO was equipped with the appropriate participatory methodologies to enable them to train IDs in their respective districts.



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New Project Manager!

“At Positive Planet International as the Project Manager my role is to oversee on the daily operations on supporting and promotion of the EERE products and raise awareness about the importance of Renewable Energy. My inspiration on this role is to see all Basotho changing their lives to better solutions and incurring less costs and saving a lot of money for their goals and dreams.

My longest related background has been working as the Sales and Marketing Manager at African Clean Energy with the similar mission and vision for 4 years and it was so exciting to get to meet Rural communities and learn about their needs also, so at PPI I find myself in a very good position to find investors and products to change lives of Rural Basotho.”



Nthabiseng MAPUTSOE, Project Manager

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)

The Government of Canada's CFLI program is a unique fund in that most projects are designed and implemented by small, local civil-society organizations. These organizations understand local needs and priorities and are often best placed to respond to them. Through CFLI grants Canada provides assistance in key priority areas such as climate change, gender equality and governance among others.

The CFLI made a grant to Positive Planet International that will be used to contribute to two components: 1) support the capacity building of 25 IDs with training and mentoring, and 2) awareness raising activities to 750 rural communities on the negative effects of fossil fuel and biomass use, and positive impact of using EERE solutions.



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