



# World ENERGY Project







Success in both college and life requires more than a formal classroom education. Recognizing that one of the world's greatest problems is energy poverty, Texas Tech's Energy Commerce program created the service-learning World Energy Project (WEP) in 2010. Students who participate in the WEP learn, teach, and install solar power technology in off-grid communities. For the past four years, our home base has been in the Apurimac and Ayacucho regions of Peru.

To implement the WEP, Texas Tech has partnered with Light Up The World Foundation (LUTW), a global nonprofit focused on providing sustainable energy solutions to people in the developing world. The communities served by the WEP are the most economically vulnerable; often living, ironically, in the very nations which are rich in energy resources. Since the initial launch of the WEP, our students have completed nine installations, providing over 350 solar power systems, directly impacting over 1,500 people.

I invite you to learn more about how this project educates and trains the next generation of socially responsible leaders.

Terry McInturff  
Professor of Practice  
Energy, Economics and Law  
Rawls College of Business  
Texas Tech University

# The Project

Approximately 1.5 billion people have no access to any form of reliable electricity. They must rely on wood, animal dung, expensive kerosene or batteries as their only sources of illumination. These are neither healthy nor economically viable solutions. Despite addressing this issue, the World Energy Project is not a traditional “aid” project. Instead, it focuses directly on health, education, and economic development through utilization of a sustainable microfinance model.


Texas Tech’s Energy Commerce program initially donates 50 solar power systems to the community, which, in turn, sells the systems to its members. The owners pay for the systems over a period of months. Interest paid is used by the community to pay local technicians (trained by LUTW) to troubleshoot and install future systems. Capital returned to the community is reinvested into more solar power systems to additional members of the community. Through an arrangement with a regional NGO, communities are periodically visited and provided with replacement batteries and bulbs, thus overcoming the traditional bane of aid projects – no follow-up and, therefore, no sustainability.

Through this two-week experience, our students travel from the comforts of home to off-grid locations in some of the most remote and underserved areas in Peru. The project affords our students the opportunity to experience the importance of community service and gain insight into issues affecting today’s world – both of which are essential components for preparing tomorrow’s global leaders. The project has proven that, while the living conditions of community members are improved, the impact on our students’ lives has been even greater.



“Through my experience with the World Energy Project, I was able to see the significant impact we were making on the Peruvians’ lives. By adding solar panels and lights to their homes, we gave them freedom to do so much more. They no longer have to end their day when the sun sets.”

Evan Estes  
Longview, Texas



Building solar control panels for installation



Lubbock, Texas



View the 2015 World Energy Project  
student video online at <http://bit.ly/RawlsWEP15>.



- Introduction to Light Up The World staff
- Project overview and expectations



Lima,  
Peru





- Pampachiri
- On-location training with local technicians
  - Installations



Andahuaylas

- Hands-on system installation and safety training
- Initial system preparation



# The Impact

## Educating Students and the Community



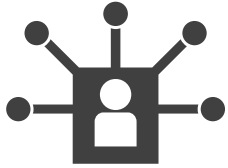
- Teaching our students technical aspects of solar power and global issues, while also helping them understand energy poverty and its implications.
- Training local technicians to perform regular maintenance and installation.

## Developing Relationships

- Building relationships among Rawls students and members of the local community.
- Fostering a lifelong network between Rawls students.







## Building a Sustainable Solution

- Developing a microfinance economic market through donations of solar power systems to communities, which are purchased by individuals and paid for within 18 months.
- Supplying jobs within local communities by training technicians, which supports a sustainable model for maintaining a reliable, cost-effective power source.
- Converting inefficient, noxious energy sources to environmentally sustainable energy.



## Saving Family Earnings

- Creating affordable access to power.
- Reducing energy costs from 40% to 20% of average household monthly income.

“Throughout my education, energy poverty and its negative effects were frequently discussed. The World Energy Project allowed me to fully understand the problem and actively be a part of the solution. This eye-opening experience helped me gain perspective on the importance of energy in improving lives.”

Caroline Namazi  
Houston, Texas



Installing a solar panel

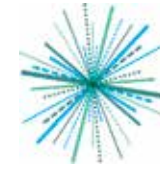
"The World Energy Project gave me an opportunity to apply the skills and concepts I learned in college. My experience in Peru also allowed me to see firsthand the impact of energy poverty. This experience made me realize how precious something as simple as a light bulb is; it was a reminder not to take anything for granted."

Elling Vikesland  
Lakeway, Texas



Teaching local students  
about solar energy





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Center for Energy Commerce

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Thank You

Special thanks to the Diamond M Foundation and other donors for their generous support of the World Energy Project. These contributions support the efforts of the Rawls College to provide innovative, high-impact learning experiences to our students.

Our partnership with World Energy Project offers a unique opportunity to become a part of a sustainable project that not only impacts the lives of our students but also the lives of others in developing countries. For information on sponsoring future installations, contact Terry McInturff at 806.834.1609 or [t.mcinturff@ttu.edu](mailto:t.mcinturff@ttu.edu).



"You not only brought light into our homes but also into our hearts."

Spokesman from the Cusibamba community (2013 WEP recipient)



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