

Green Communities Consulting Model Farm initiatives

MyanmarUnited States
Jonathan Rhodes



Year Founded:

2013

Organization type:

nonprofit/ngo/citizen sector

Project Stage:

Start-Up

Budget:

\$10,000 - \$50,000

Website:

<http://www.greencc.org>



- [Community development](#)
- [Green business](#)
- [Sustainable development](#)
- [Sustainable agriculture](#)

Project Summary

Elevator Pitch

Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.

We give trainings and environmental consulting to community projects in Myanmar. We assist with sustainable design and agriculture by integrating methods such as mud-brick building and organic composting. This will strengthen the community to be self-reliant using sustainable methods and practices.

About Project

Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?

Myanmar has a rich and diverse culture, extensive beautiful natural resources, and incredible biodiversity. Environmental issues facing Myanmar include damaging agricultural practices, unregulated resource consumption, pollution, erosion, and improper waste management. Social issues are directly linked to environmental practices such as resource/food scarcity, health, inequality, and poverty. We use environmental consulting as a bridge to address these social problems in a region of the world where direct social engagement is made difficult by the government. Additionally funding for projects in Myanmar have, until recently been difficult to get. And even now, funding for sustainable community development is made difficult because many donors give to national initiatives only.

Solution: What is the proposed solution? Please be specific!

We will provide trainings to post-10 programs. Post-10 is a term used in Myanmar to indicate education level. High school ends at 10th grade (age 15) with 11th grade only available for college bound students. Post-10 programs are targeted for 15yo youth and up. These trainings will include techniques in agriculture and animal husbandry, food bank developments, fuel efficient stoves, mud brick making, environmentally-conscious architectural design and land use planning. Youth projects via model farms are the initial form of engagement with local communities. GCC will not be project facilitators but are expert consults on projects assisting with environmental alternative solutions, and education training. We help provide access to nutrient rich produce and organic methodologies. By providing assistance through education and training, GCC empowers the community in sustainable agriculture practices and promotes access to sustainable nutritional health.

Impact: How does it Work

Example: Walk us through a specific example(s) of how this solution makes a difference; include its primary activities.

Land use planning and training with our partner (NEED-Burma) will provided 50 practitioners with real world training and practice. The training includes organic compost, fuel efficient stoves and agroforestry. They then implement these strategies in their local communities. For example, two youth from last year's NEED program are currently running model farm projects (one with an agro-forestry model) and a third is conducting a bio-diversity project for local agricultural species. GCC provided training assistance and consulting throughout their projects. he projects provide organic produce and animals to the local communities, offer training and models for organic methods, and have the potential to influence 1,000s of people within and around each village. We recently finished the agroforestry project. We helped the practitioner select plant species, develop the layout of the land, and build the buildings on site for composting, a chicken coup, and pig pen. Once projects are implemented, GCC requires 3 reports a year for 2 years from the community development leader. The first year GCC helps them learn to monitor the project and continues to provide remote or onsite assistance to ensure the project is running smoothly. The second year of reporting ensures the project is continuing successfully, expanding, and that they are capable of monitoring the project on their own. After this, they are fully responsible for their projects and GCC keeps contact with the organization for future collaboration.

Impact: What is the impact of the work to date? Also describe the projected future impact for the coming years.

We have assisted on one land use planning project and began work on developing another model farm. The land use planning project was with NEED-Myanmar's new school in Burma, helping to design the layout of the farm, mud-brick making for buildings, and installing water access points for running water and irrigation. The school will house 30 to 50 youth for a 10 month program annually and will offer supplementary university agriculture courses for the local colleges and government personal within the next 5 years. Our current project includes a model farm and model agroforest. Trainings conducted and organic produce as well as chickens and pigs will help provide healthy foods, sustainable livelihoods, and become a source for income generation to the local villages. This has the potential to reach 1000s through trainings and food security beyond the initial target village because the market reach goes beyond the local community but extends to the entire region as well.

Sustainability

Financial Sustainability Plan: What is this solution's plan to ensure financial sustainability?

We have a number of funding sources: private, small grants, and project generated funding (PGF). To cover growing expenses, GCC will actively seek PGF funding through hostel and hotel consulting. This will provide support for our projects and falls within GCCs mission of environmental assistance and offers an additional source of funding for the organizations projects. We are also working on our 501.c.3 to open new funding opportunities.

Marketplace: Who else is addressing the problem outlined here? How does the proposed project differ from these approaches?

Many organizations work on environment, human rights, and political issues, yet none bridge them successfully. We can by networking these orgs. rather than starting new projects. We chose projects that want our help but have local experts and have found their own funding. By using local experts with our own and not charging fees we reduce their costs and ours. Approaching projects this way makes the ownership and successes of the projects entirely that of the communities; improving the success rate and continued implementation of the models once we have gone. Also, traditional consultants focus on government or large scale projects. We focus on community base development and provide trainings so that they can collectively influence the larger actors such as governments and international NGOs.

Team

Founding Story

I worked for some time with the District Department of the Environment in Washington D.C. and got my M.S. in environmental science with a focus on community development. My goal was to merge science, community development, and policy. During those few years I built a network of experts willing to assist me ranging infields from the hard sciences to policy and NGOs management. I decided, then, to volunteer for a few months as the science and community development instructor with NEED-Burma. NEED is a post-10 school for Burmese community development leaders. As a volunteer member of their staff, I became increasingly involved with these young practitioner's lives, experiences, and future dreams. Their desire to work towards change, and the need for expert environmental consulting following their graduation, was the catalyst for my organization's inception. Recently, I conducted a pilot project at NEED's new site in Myanmar and another successful project in Karin State.

About You

Organization:

Green Communities Consulting

About You

First Name

Jonathan

Last Name

Rhodes

Twitter URL

http://twitter.com/greenncc_org

Facebook URL

<http://www.facebook.com/greenncc.org>

About Your Organization

Organization Name

Green Communities Consulting

Organization Country

Country where this project is creating social impact

, KN

Has the organization received awards or honors? Please tell us about them

N/A

Nutrients For All

Where do you ensure the availability of nutrients?

Healthy environments., Nutrient-rich farming, Full nourishment foods, Human wellness and vitality.

If you had greater capacity, which additional sectors would you like your solution to target - either through expansion, partnership, or thought exchange?

Healthy environments, Nutrient-rich farming.

How specifically would this added capacity help you improve the quality, efficiency, or sustainability of your existing product or service?

This would allow GCC to greatly improve the quality of our consulting work. At the moment, we rely on pro bono remote experts. This added capacity will allow GCC to provide onsite assistance by covering visa fees, project transportation costs, and covering living expense. Additionally, the funding will allow GCC to provide seed funding to a number of youth projects as well as assist with 501(c)(3) registration to ensure future financial stability and our continued work in Burma. The funding would also allow me to hire local staff in Myanmar to further reduce travel expenses.

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