



# Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas



*“Countries have stepped forward, each providing leadership and expertise. These are exactly the kind of partnerships that we need – neighbors joining with neighbors to unleash the progress that none of us can achieve alone.”*

–President Barack Obama, speaking about ECPA, March 21, 2011

Launched at the 2009 Summit of the Americas, ECPA serves as a platform for sharing ideas and devising solutions to achieve collective energy and climate goals. It provides a voluntary and flexible framework for member countries to advance cooperation on: renewable energy, energy efficiency, cleaner/efficient use of fossil fuels, energy poverty reduction, energy infrastructure, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and sustainable forests and land use. The United States remains committed to promoting energy security and addressing the effects of climate change in the Americas through the ECPA platform for cooperation. We are working closely with Mexico in preparation for the next ECPA Ministerial in Merida May 25-26. The Department of State has dedicated more than \$41 million in grants and interagency agreements to non-profit organizations, universities, a public international organization, and government agencies.

## ECPA's Impact - A Snapshot:

Since 2009, organizations have worked with partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen capacity and share best practices on energy and climate issues. For a list of these projects and for more information, visit the ECPA clearinghouse at <http://www.ecpamericas.org>. The United States and other governments in the region have cooperated on more than 40 ECPA initiatives and projects, including, but not limited to:

- » A Peace Corps initiative that has supported the building of more than 3,000 cookstoves addressing energy poverty in off-grid communities and has allowed 8,395 community members throughout eight countries to gain knowledge of renewable energy technologies;
- » A Trees, Water & People (TWP) grant that supported local entrepreneurs to disseminate and install 11,000 household solar energy systems (approximately 6,000 in Honduras; 5,000 in Peru). As a result of its work, TWP created an independent social enterprise, Luciérnaga, which not only positions itself as a key distribution company delivering solar technologies to a network of isolated rural communities, but also ensures that its work will continue now that the grant has ended;
- » Through the ECPA Fellows Program, WHA has supported more than 50 technical assistance visits and two ECPA Fellow Innovator projects, including a project that will develop sustainable agriculture and forest management capacities among university students, resource managers, and private sector participants to promote economic, environmental and societal benefits in Belize.
- » Sustainable Communities in Central America and the Caribbean grants that have helped hundreds of families gain access to cleaner sources of energy through renewable energy integration and energy efficiency, and improved waste management and recycling.