

80-energy efficiency and renewable energy projects are amassing critical experience as well as results. Impacts are particularly visible in GEF-supported solar home systems, grid-connected wind and biomass power, energy efficient lighting, and fuel switching.

Solar home and rural energy systems installed as a direct result of 20 GEF projects promise to put in place more than 1 million systems over the next few years, significantly expanding the numbers currently installed in developing countries, which are estimated at between 300,000 and 500,000. These rural energy projects offer dual benefits: they mitigate climate change while bringing clean forms of power to the people. They liberate women from backbreaking labor, conserve forests, and stem the tide of migration to urban areas.

GEF is also pioneering technologies with particular relevance for developing countries. Next month, our Council will take up a \$105 million proposed climate change work program which includes support for a new solar thermal plant in Mexico, and the introduction of fuel cell buses in Brazil and electric buses in Egypt -- these last two projects providing mobility while cutting back on health-threatening air pollution in heavily populated urban areas.

This is climate change mitigation. This is technology transfer. This is sustainable development. This is also capacity building.

The GEF has found that in many cases a good way to build capacity is through projects themselves -- through the doing, as it were. Our study of 84 GEF climate change