



mitra

winter 07-08

learning energy

unlearning habits, demonstrating intent, taking small steps



The science is clear, the signs evident and the world governments have agreed to develop a roadmap for adoption of drastic emission cuts and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures by 2009 under the auspices of UN.

Weaning future development pathways, away from coal-fired energy is recommended as a first major step for reducing carbon in the atmosphere by scientists.

Mitras have spent most of 2007, learning and sharing an 'energy conscience', discovering and exploring the world of alternate energy, unravelling technical specifications, demystifying technologies and listening to young people. Researching, reading and experimenting.

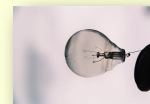
2008 is the year of realization of our efforts of 2007. The Carbon Neutral Campus Program received a shot in the arm when Center for Learning announced its intention of going completely off grid for its energy requirements, students of Aditi Mallya decided to raise funds to provide solar lighting for the common dining and study areas of IGI school in Bangalore and our allies in Pune, Peepal foundation agreed to set up Solar Study Centers in two off-grid villages of Maharashtra. All these projects go live in 2008.

Mitras are looking forward to an exciting year and wish all our friends and supporters -

A Very Happy New Year !.

Seema & Adarsh

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



'Ban the Bulb', the war cry of energy efficiency preachers in 2007 targeting the original Edison invention, the incandescent bulb, has drastically improved the sales of CFL bulbs, the more energy efficient alternative, and companies have even started talking about reducing the mercury content with new technologies in the near future.

Meanwhile a quiet revolution is happening on the LED (light emitting diode) front, the future of the diodes is getting brighter.

For efficiency, **austerity** is Mitra mantra, but when we compare appliances, we find that for efficiency, durability and safety, the LED bulb is tomorrow's technology available today. Find out more on mitranews.blogspot.com

MITRA FOUNDATION

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Please share this newsletter!

THE ANSWER IS BLOWING IN THE WIND...

The growth of the wind energy industry, and the role of Indian players in the global markets is now legendary. On the domestic front, the increased orders for house hold and campus sized wind turbines, should be seen as a beginning of a new energy revolution, literally.

Mitras have been scoping and researching various wind turbine manufacturers that can meet the demands of small and medium sized consumers for our carbon neutral campus program.

UNITRON, a Pune based company that is responsible for setting up the most numbers of wind turbines on educational campuses in India, offered training for two Mitras this year.

Adarsh has been hanging out at Unitron offices and installation sites gaining valuable insight into the the technology with hands on experience with sizing, site selection and actual setting up of a wind energy system.

Mitras will gain from this training when they assist the students of Center for Learning who are

setting up of a 650 watt wind turbine at their campus, which is going off grid with an integrated 1.9 kw photovoltaic solar energy system in January 2008. Currently Mitras are busy preparing for installation, you will receive a detailed report on this early success of Mitra's carbon neutral campus program in our 2008 spring newsletter.



LEARNING ENERGY IN A PARK

Mitras have been spending time with youngsters at the RENEWABLE energy Park situated opposite the planetarium in Bangalore. Together we have explored the various applications of renewable energy with working models installed at the Park.

The students, like us, are most fascinated by the photo voltaic technologies deployed at the park to electrify a typical household, running a refrigerator, television and even a computer besides the usual lights and fans.

Invariably the discussion veers to why tropical countries blessed with non-stop supply of

solar energy are not exploiting it to the fullest.

According to K. Shrinivas, Mitra Trustee, "traditionally the pv solar industry has been stifled



by abused subsidies programme, but with the renewal of demand and better awareness amongst buyers, the pv solar industry is all set to be the next 'sun-rise' industry. Breakthroughs in technology for increased

efficiency and integrated systems, pv solar energy systems are increasingly more attractive for domestic purposes."

Students of Mallya Aditi school in Bangalore have seen the light and have undertaken a project to install solar powered lighting system for common dining and study areas of Indira Gandhi International school in Bangalore.

For this project, Mitras are experimenting with LED (light emitting diodes) that unlike the currently popular CFLs, are mercury-free, longer lasting and considered the most efficient use of power .

NAMASTE - KARNATRIIX

the Karnatriix 777 concert in Chennai (read more at mitranews.blogspot.com) was the best time that Mitras had in 2007 and we are happy to announce that the magical music of that night is now available on CDs from Karnatriix exclusively for Mitras For orders : choices@mitrafoundation.org

HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS AND MITRAS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY IN PUNE



Mitra Foundation along with their project partners Peepal Foundation organized a rally of over 1000 students and senior citizens in Pune on Wednesday to raise awareness on global warming, impacts of

climate change and the role of renewable energy in ensuring a safe and clean future.

Students from various schools and senior citizens associated with Peepal foundation took to the streets with banners, posters and placards depicting global warming and its impacts and tips on conserving electricity, as well as a demand to switch to renewable energy sources instead of climate killing coal powered plants.

We also saw interesting posters prepared by the students on - Conservation of electricity, buying energy efficient appliances, using solar water heaters , buying locally grown food, car-pools, using public transport, reducing wasteful consumption

PEEPAL FOUNDATION ADOPTS MITRA'S SOLAR STUDY CENTER (SSC) PROGRAM

In line with its objective of empowering the underprivileged, Peepal Foundation is proposing to set up Solar Study Centers (SSC) for educational purposes in two villages near Pune that have no access to electricity.

Solar Study Center, a concept promoted by Mitra Foundation, aims to offer access to sufficient lighting and shelter, in a community managed area, to local students who wish to pursue their educational goals with dignity and decorum.

In line with their objective of promoting environment friendly, socially just and sustainable solutions, Mitra Foundation has en-

visaged that the Solar Study Centers are powered by any form of renewable energy in combination with solar energy, the most abundant source of power in India.



The Solar Study Centers will be community managed and will operate after dusk primarily for students preparing for examina-

tions, completing their homework or revising.

When and if the facility is not being used by the students, for eg on weekends, the study center will be utilised by Peepal Foundation for f literacy, livelihood training programs for women with other interested ngos.

Peepal foundation sees this pilot project as a first step towards empowering the villagers with a space dedicated for education, awareness and exposure to the potential of renewable energy to power its development.

For more details keep checking mitranews.blogspot.com

CARBON KARMA - A SURVIVORS GUIDE TO CLIMATE CHAOS



Mitras are looking for sponsors and partners for the publication of this ultimate guide to global warming, climate change, and everything you should or should not do to survive safely in this life without worrying about your next life. For details contact:

choices@mitrafoundation.org

BE A MITRA



You can be a Mitra too. Volunteer your time and expertise with our carbon neutral campus program or donate generously for expansion of our Solar Study Center program. Write to

choices@mitrafoundation.org

Our Mission

To promote environment friendly, socially just and sustainable models of development by focusing on alternative technologies and lifestyle solutions.

Mitra Foundation is a charitable trust registered under the Indian Trust Act 1882.

Regn Number: BklV/317/06-07

www.mitrafoundation.org

2008 Calendar

January - Wind/solar integrated energy system installation at Center for Learning, Bangalore.

February - Installation of solar lighting system at IGI school with students of Aditi Mallya school, Bangalore

March - SOLAR STUDY CENTER installation by Peepal Foundation in Pune.

Mitras will also conduct following programs in Bangalore.

1. **Field visits to Renewable Energy Park for Class IX**
2. **Climate Change adaptation and mitigation presentations for class XI**

For enquiries please write to choices@mitrafoundation.org



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