



The ERM Foundation Annual Review 2015

Supporting sustainable development for 20 years

About the ERM Foundation



Mano a Mano: sustainable agriculture in Bolivia

The ERM Foundation was established to enable ERM and its employees to provide technical, volunteering and fundraising support for not-for-profit organizations and social enterprises that share our commitment to creating a more sustainable and equitable world.

During FY15¹, ERM contributed more than \$1 million to global sustainability initiatives, primarily through the ERM Foundation and its programs.

The ERM Foundation focuses on areas that align with the interests, skills and professional experience of ERM employees:

- **Clean water and sanitation**
- **Low carbon development**
- **Conservation and biodiversity**
- **Environmental education**
- **Empowering women and girls²**

Providing *pro bono* technical support

The ERM Foundation runs a global program that enables our employees to provide *pro bono* technical support for not-for-profit organizations and social enterprises in the communities in which we live and work. We believe that by providing professional support on this basis we can make a greater impact than through grant funding alone. This also gives our people inspiring opportunities to engage directly with a wide range of environmental and sustainability initiatives, develop new skills and make a difference.

Raising funds and giving grants

ERM employees participate in a wide range of fundraising activities to support ERM Foundation projects. ERM employees have the opportunity to apply for company matching funds to amplify the funds raised. Most of the organizations we support with grant funding are also supported with employee *pro bono* and/or volunteering time.

Community volunteering

We encourage our employees to participate in community volunteering activities, including the annual International Coastal Clean-up, Earth Day and World Environment Day.

Regional flagship projects

In addition to office-led projects, ERM employees collaborate on ambitious ‘flagship’ projects in the North America and Europe, Middle East and Africa regions. These longer-term projects are undertaken in partnership with established not-for-profit organizations and utilize the technical and fundraising support of ERM employees from across each region.

The Low Carbon Enterprise Fund (LCEF)

The LCEF is a global program of the ERM Foundation. It is an impact investment fund that provides financial, technical and management support for low carbon entrepreneurs in the developing world. The small businesses we work with bring low carbon products and services to some of the world’s poorest communities and increase access to clean energy.

Global Goals for Sustainable Development³

As part of our re-alignment with the new global goals, the ERM Foundation has adopted ‘Empowering women and girls’ as a new focus area from FY16.

1. FY15: financial year ending 31 March 2015
2. New focus area being adopted from FY16
3. Global Goals for Sustainable Development also known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

CEO message



The ERM Foundation enables ERM to make a positive contribution to the global sustainable development agenda. This year we also celebrate our Foundation's 20th anniversary.

John Alexander, CEO, ERM

The ERM Foundation is employee-led, and enables our people to identify and provide hands-on technical and fundraising support for a wide range of not-for-profit organizations and social enterprises in the communities where we live and work.

This is a particularly special year for the ERM Foundation, because we celebrate our 20th anniversary. Since it was established in 1995, the ERM Foundation has grown from a small US-led grant giving charity to a global program that enables our people across offices in 40 countries to engage in challenging, inspiring and life-changing projects.

Two of our regions operate their own regional 'flagship' projects, which foster collaboration and innovation across geographies. This year we selected a new flagship project for the Europe, Middle East and Africa region, which in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Birdlife International, aims to reverse the long-term decline in populations of the common swift. We are also making good progress

with our North American flagship project, which is supporting the establishment of a sustainable fishery in the Canadian Arctic, working closely with the local Inuit community. Our longer term objective with this activity is to provide an effective model for sustainable livelihoods that can be replicated within other Arctic communities.

We continue to encourage our employees to volunteer in their own communities, both as part of coordinated activities such as the International Coastal Clean-up and also to forge relationships with local community groups and civil society organizations. Volunteer activities undertaken during the past year ranged from providing environmental education for low income children in the United States to cleaning up coastlines around the world.

Our Low Carbon Enterprise Fund is a program of the ERM Foundation which provides valuable investment and capacity building for clean energy entrepreneurs in the developing world.

I would like to thank all the ERM employees who have channelled their time, energy and enthusiasm into the many worthwhile projects that we have undertaken during the ERM Foundation's 20 year history.

This work really does make a difference, both for the environment and for the communities we work with; and these programs help raise the profile of the challenges we face as a global society.

John Alexander
CEO, ERM

Celebrating 20 years of the ERM Foundation



“

Thanks to the efforts of early investors like the ERM Foundation, Water for People and its local partners assisted the district of Cuchumuela to be the first district in Bolivia to achieve full drinking water coverage for all of its citizens.

”

Chrissey Buckley, Water for People

Partner for 20 years: Water for People

In 1995, the ERM Foundation disbursed its inaugural grant to Water for People (WFP). WFP brings together local entrepreneurs, civil society, governments and communities to establish creative, collaborative solutions that allow people to build and maintain their own reliable and safe water systems. This transforms the lives of people by improving health and economic productivity to help end the cycle of poverty.

As part of our 20th anniversary celebrations, we have recognised this early partnership with a new grant for \$50,000 for WFP's Everyone Forever Program in Rwanda. This funding will bring clean water and improved sanitation to **46 communities, 24 schools and one health clinic reaching 33,500 people.**

Since 1995, the ERM Foundation has disbursed 14 grants totalling \$183,000 to Water for People. This funding has improved access to clean water and sanitation for more than 55,000 people across Africa and also in India and Guatemala.

Celebrating 20 years of the ERM Foundation

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq9XTzKvHOM>

- The ERM Foundation was established in 1995 and, this year, we celebrate our 20th anniversary.
- Since 1995, we have disbursed more than **\$3 million** in grants to 250 organizations spanning five continents.
- An additional **10,000 hours** of technical *pro bono* support has been provided to not-for-profit organizations and social enterprises by ERM employees globally.
- During our 20-year history, the ERM Foundation has expanded from being a single entity in the United States to a company-wide program that engages ERM employees across 40 countries.
- Since 2008, the LCEF has invested **\$1.9 million** in low carbon enterprises in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Highlights from some projects during the past 20 years

2.8m people

in 26 of the world's poorest communities have been given access to clean water and improved sanitation

47,000 acres

of destroyed rainforest in Cambodia have been replanted to reconnect corridors for endangered Asian elephants

700,000 children and community members

globally involved in ERM Foundation-funded environmental education programs

500 ERM employees








involved in *pro bono* work with the ERM Foundation since 2008

Where we worked in FY15

The ERM Foundation in action around the world in 2015

Some of this year's highlights

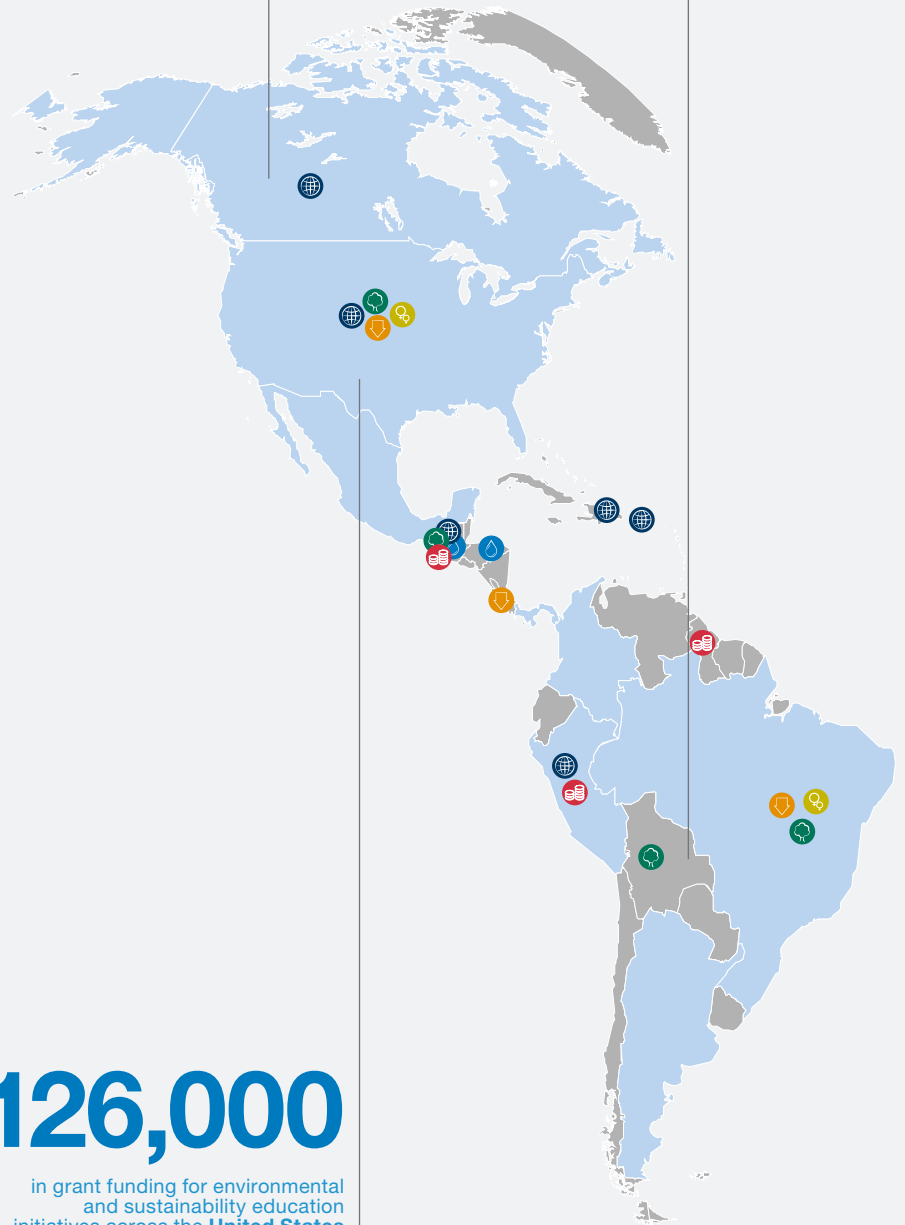
Key

-  Clean water and sanitation
-  Low carbon development
-  Conservation and biodiversity
-  Environmental education
-  LCEF investments
-  Empowering women and girls
-  Countries/territories with ERM offices

\$15,000

grant for a sustainable agriculture initiative in **Bolivia**

North America flagship project
Creating a sustainable fishery in the **Canadian Arctic**



\$126,000

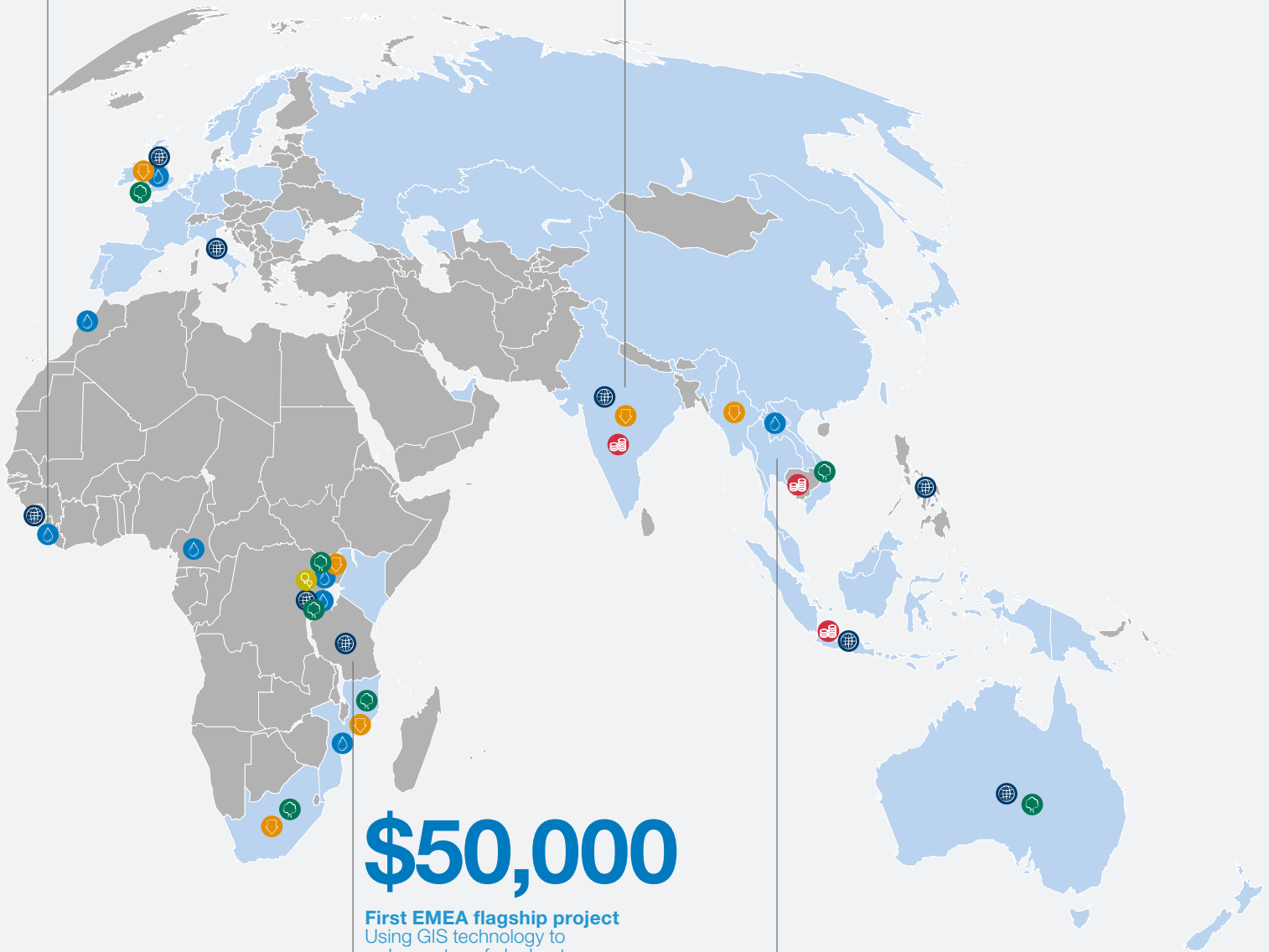
in grant funding for environmental and sustainability education initiatives across the **United States**

\$10,000

grant to provide a solar powered potable water supply for 5,000 people in rural **Liberia**

\$133,000

LCEF investment in a solar energy venture in **India**



\$50,000

First EMEA flagship project
Using GIS technology to reduce rates of elephant poaching in **Tanzania**

Employee fundraising plus company matching funds: \$50,000

Fuel efficient cooking stoves in **Myanmar**

FY15 at a glance



Water Collective, Cameroon



International Coastal Clean-up event in India

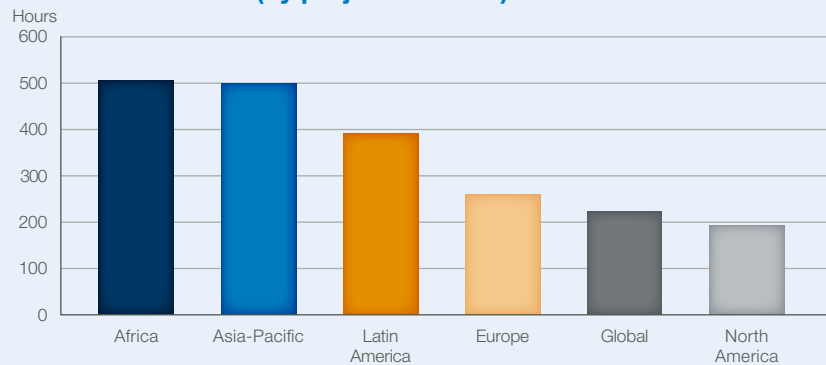


Kamworks, Cambodia (LCEF investment)

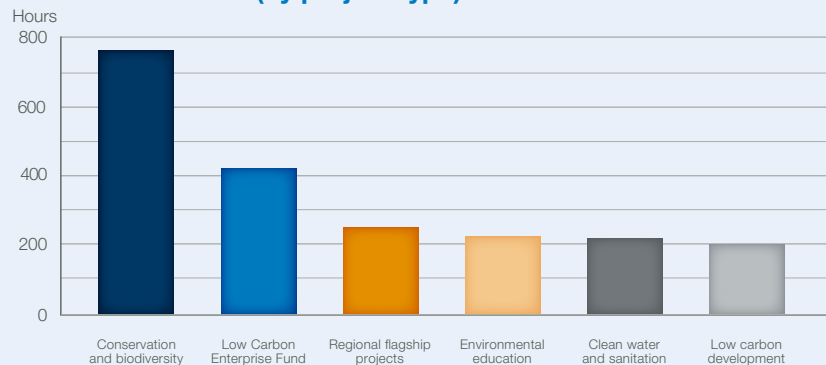
Pro bono projects

During FY15, ERM employees provided 2,065 hours of *pro bono* time to support 56 projects in 24 countries.

Pro bono hours used (by project location)



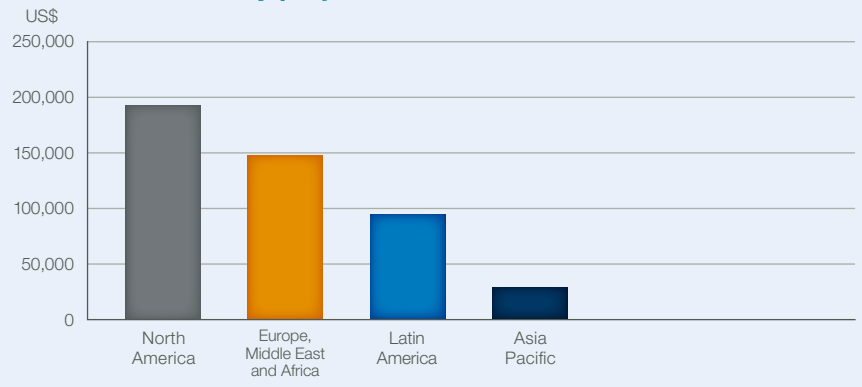
Pro bono hours used (by project type)



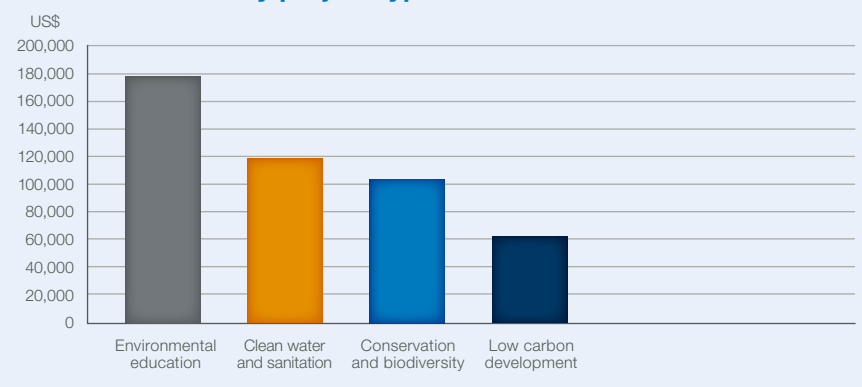
Grants

During FY15, the ERM Foundation disbursed **\$460,000** in grants to **53 projects** in **20 countries**.

Grants disbursed by project location



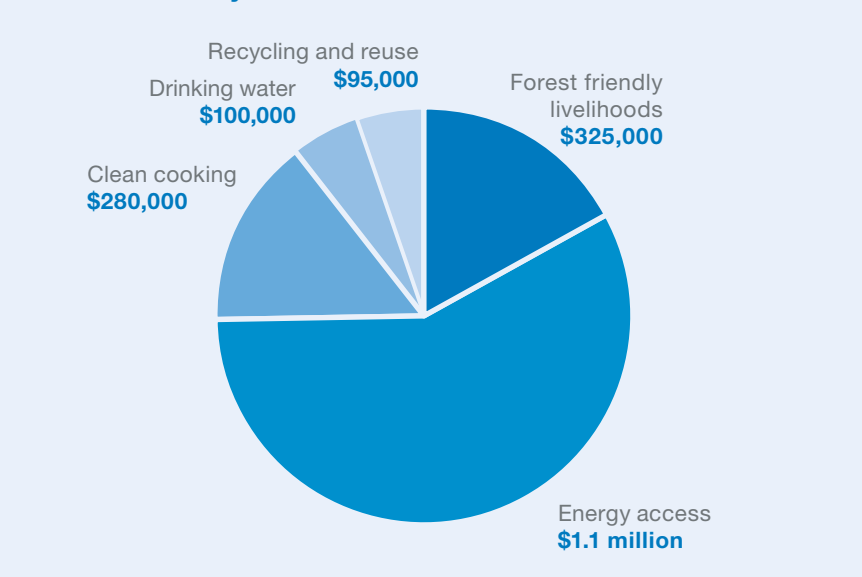
Grants disbursed by project type



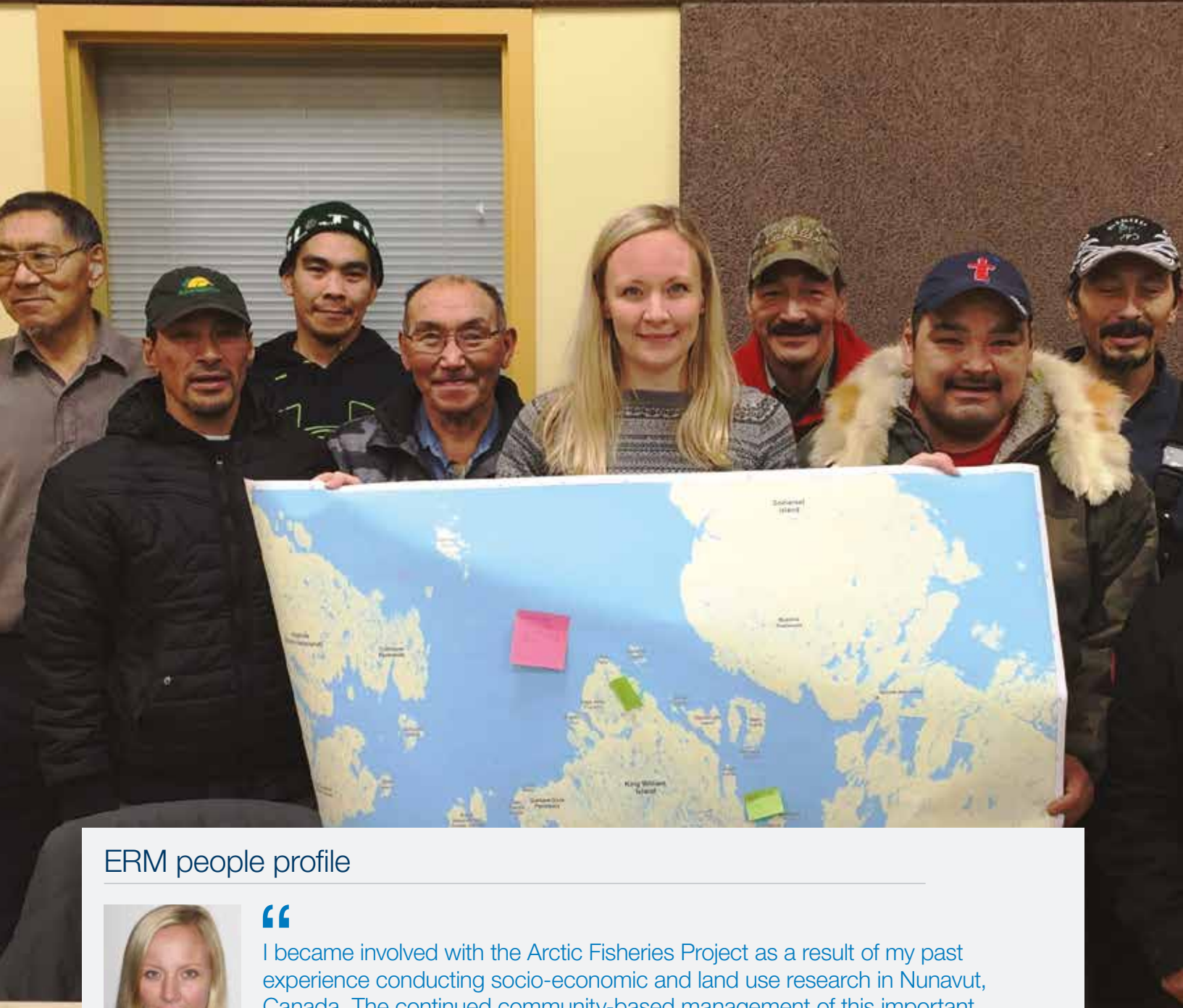
Low Carbon Enterprise Fund (LCEF)

During FY15, the LCEF invested **\$450,000** in four low carbon ventures in Guatemala, India and Peru.

Funds invested by the LCEF since 2008



Regional flagship projects



ERM people profile



Heather Henley,
Vancouver office

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I became involved with the Arctic Fisheries Project as a result of my past experience conducting socio-economic and land use research in Nunavut, Canada. The continued community-based management of this important resource will serve to strengthen community social-ecological systems and resilience. The resource management principles inherent within traditional Inuit ecological knowledge reflect conventional approaches to resource conservation and sustainable development. Further integration of these principles within the approach to the development of the fishery will ensure the long-term success of this endeavour, keeping community priorities at the heart of our work.

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The ERM Foundation operates regional flagship projects. These long-term projects, which are nominated and selected by ERM employees, are undertaken in partnership with established not-for-profit organizations and engage the technical and fundraising support of employees across each region.

Flagship project in North America: Creating a sustainable fishery in the Canadian Arctic

In collaboration with: Gjoa Haven HTO; Queens University, Toronto; Nunavut Department of Environment, Fisheries and Sealing Division; the hamlet of Gjoa Haven

The town of Gjoa Haven in the Canadian Arctic is located 250km north of the Arctic Circle and more than 1,000km from the nearest city. Like many towns in the region, Gjoa Haven suffers from high levels of unemployment, which is compounded by dependency on expensive imported food.

For the past two years, ERM employees across North America have been leading a project in Gjoa Haven that, in partnership with the local community, is developing a sustainable and commercial fishery. If successful, this could be replicated in similar Arctic communities.

Fish are a crucial year-round food source for Nunavummiut (Inuit people from Nunavut, Canada). The commercial potential of local fish stocks has been proven


in Iqaluit, Pangnirtung and Cambridge Bay (Canada), providing much-needed community employment and economic diversification in these communities.

In November 2014, the ERM Foundation hosted an initial workshop and mapping session in Gjoa Haven with local fishermen, youth, and Elders knowledgeable about the land and traditional fishing practices. Interviews were conducted with other key stakeholders and the Fisheries and Sealing Division of the Department of Environment.

This year, ERM provided the expertise of an experienced fisheries biologist to conduct a one-week field program training local fishermen. Our contribution is part of a larger research program with the goal of providing local capacity-building and an estimation of stock productivity, indicating whether local fish populations can support a sustainable commercial fishery operation at Gjoa Haven.

ERM employees are also providing hands-on support with fundraising for this initiative and have assisted with the preparation of several grant applications. Employee-led fundraising also has been undertaken, which has been used to purchase fisheries equipment for the community, including a depth sounder, fishing nets, gillnets and shrimp pots.

Flagship project in EMEA



Many bird species which migrate between Europe and Africa are experiencing long-term population declines. One affected species is the common swift which breeds within Europe and migrates to central and southern Africa for the rest of the year. Since 2009, the common swift has been considered an 'Amber Listed' Bird of Conservation Concern.

‘Saving the Springtime’ – protecting Europe’s Spring migrant birds

Partner organizations: the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Birdlife International partners

This year, ERM employees in EMEA selected a new regional flagship project, which commenced in FY16. ‘Saving the Springtime’ is being undertaken in partnership with the RSPB and Birdlife International partners.

For the next few years, ERM employees across EMEA will work with the RSPB and local Birdlife International partners on

a range of activities designed to reverse the decline in numbers of the common swift and other Spring migrant birds. This project involves technical, volunteering and fundraising support from ERM employees from across the region.

Activities include making and installing nest boxes for swifts; providing Geographical Information System (GIS) support to map local populations of swifts as they migrate between Europe and Africa; creating a

data management system to serve as a central repository for all swift records; and providing environmental education within local schools, in consultation with in-country experts from Birdlife International.

This project was selected for its truly regional scope and the ability for ERM employees to participate actively within their local communities.

➤ <http://www.rspb.org.uk/>

Partner profile



Conor Jameson,
Development Manager, RSPB



We’re all really delighted to be working with the ERM Foundation on this project, and look forward to exploring new and imaginative ways to help swifts and other migrant birds, and to engage young people and the wider public in taking simple, effective actions near their homes, schools and workplaces.



ERM people profile



Aisling Wallace,
Edinburgh office



As an ecologist with an interest in ornithology, the Saving the Springtime project strongly appealed to me and I saw it as an opportunity to increase my involvement with the ERM Foundation and use my technical knowledge. The approach we’re taking is for individual ERM offices to develop and implement locally relevant conservation initiatives, which will meet the overall objective of conserving swifts and other migrant birds. In my role as project manager, I am enjoying getting to know more colleagues from across the region and hearing their enthusiasm and ideas for the project. It has also been great developing our relationship with the RSPB and Birdlife International partners to implement this innovative project.



Clean water and sanitation

During FY15, the ERM Foundation disbursed **\$118,000** in grants to support nine clean water and sanitation projects in Rwanda, Uganda, Mozambique, Liberia, Cameroon, Morocco, Guatemala and the United Kingdom. An additional **215 hours** of *pro bono* technical support has been provided by ERM employees.

Improving access to clean water and sanitation in rural Honduras

Partner organization: Living Waters for the World

Fewer than one-third of rural communities in Honduras have access to safe drinking water, which contributes to high rates of gastrointestinal disease and up to 10 percent of household incomes being spent on bottled water.

The village of El Naranjo in Honduras consists of 200 families whose local water supply is contaminated with bacteria and pesticides. Approximately 25 percent of this community regularly misses school or work due to stomach ailments associated with the contaminated water supply.

The role of the ERM Foundation

Mary Hess, from ERM's Bellingham office in Washington State, spent a week with this community assisting with troubleshooting of the installation and training 'community educators' in relation to health and hygiene issues, including how to minimise the spread of germs, water conservation, and safety issues associated with operation of the water filtration system.

✦ <http://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/>



Mary Hess with villagers from El Naranjo

Project outcomes

- The new system produces 9,000 liters of safe drinking water per week
- Cost of the water is 50 percent less than standard market price
- The local elementary school serving 200 children receives clean water free of charge
- The community uses the water system income to maintain the system and set up a fund for local children to attend secondary school
- 25 community educators have been trained in health and hygiene and how to prevent the spread of disease
- 50 local children have been provided with health and hygiene education

We will monitor the longer term impacts of this project in the year ahead.



ERM people profile

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The village of El Naranjo now has access to clean drinking water which costs half the market price. The drinking water system has created part-time jobs for five operators and one financial business manager. Approximately 9,000 liters of drinking water will be supplied to the community per week and free water is also being provided for the local elementary school. The community will save money to be able to buy replacement parts and filters. This was my third installation in rural Honduras and every installation trip reconfirms the importance of sharing what we have learned with communities to make them healthier, empower them to make good choices, and remind them that working together we can achieve great things for our future.

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Mary Hess,
Bellingham office

Low carbon development

During FY15, the ERM Foundation disbursed **\$60,000** in grants to five low carbon projects in Uganda, Nicaragua, Myanmar, Brazil and the United States. An additional **198 hours** of technical *pro bono* support has been provided by ERM employees.

Pledging lifestyle changes to reduce carbon emissions

Partner organization: [the DoNation](http://www.thedonation.org.uk/)

The DoNation is a social enterprise that encourages people to make lifestyle changes in ways that reduce their carbon footprint and environmental impact. This is achieved through a website 'pledging' system whereby individuals commit to adopt more sustainable 'do' actions such as walking to work, washing clothes at reduced temperature or eating less meat. Pledgers commit to these actions over a three-month period, after which many retain these more sustainable habits long term. The value of these individual sustainable actions is calculated in terms of how much carbon is saved.

The role of the ERM Foundation

The ERM Foundation started working with the DoNation in 2012 when we provided *pro bono* support to calculate the carbon savings created by individual 'do' actions. We are now undertaking similar calculations to assess the waste, water and financial savings associated with these actions. ERM employees in the United Kingdom and Ireland engage actively with the DoNation by pledging to adopt more sustainable actions.

➤ <http://www.thedonation.org.uk/>

FY15 carbon savings associated with ERM employee 'do' actions in the United Kingdom and Ireland

- As much carbon has been saved as would be used by leaving a light bulb on for 401 years.
- 4,800km have been walked through people pledging to 'Walk On'.
- 3,295 cups of tea brewed more efficiently by people pledging to do 'Tea Time'
- The equivalent of 11 Everests climbed through people pledging to climb stairs rather than use elevators.

ERM people profile



Preyasi Patel,
London office

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I began working with the DoNation program in 2014 and have collaborated closely with them to expand the current metrics to include water, waste and financials. In addition, I have been working to revitalize the program within ERM in the United Kingdom and Ireland to ensure that the program is beneficial to all users. I was interested in getting involved in this program as it offers a different approach to engaging people in making small changes in order to reduce carbon emissions. As the program develops I hope to see it expand beyond the United Kingdom and be adopted by other ERM offices around the world.

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Innovation Africa

Solar energy for improved healthcare in rural Uganda

Partner organization: Innovation Africa

The village of Bumunji is located in the East of Uganda near the Kenyan border. The local health center, which serves a community of 23,000 people, has no mains electricity. The medical staff rely on kerosene and candles for lighting. The center struggles to operate safely outside of daylight hours, meaning that medical care is restricted to 12 hours per day. The lack of electricity also makes it very difficult to store vaccines.

Innovation Africa has been working since 2008 to bring solar technology to African villages. To date, they have provided light, clean water, food and medical care to more than 700,000 people in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Malawi, Uganda, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal.

The role of the ERM Foundation

The ERM Foundation has provided a \$20,000 grant to provide solar infrastructure for the Bumunji Health Center. This simple intervention will enable the facility to open 24 hours a day, allowing doctors and midwives to provide emergency medical care and maternal health services around the clock. The new 24-hour opening hours will increase the number of patients they can treat. In similar projects undertaken by Innovation Africa, they have seen the number of women seeking maternal healthcare services increase by as much as 400 percent. In addition, the health center will now be able to store vaccines using a solar-powered refrigerator, reducing the number of children suffering from preventable diseases.

Long term sustainability

To make this intervention sustainable in the longer term, Innovation Africa works closely with the local community to set up a micro enterprise (solar charging stations) that will generate the income required to maintain the health center's solar system. The charging stations also enable the local community to charge their mobile phones and other small household devices at an affordable rate without having to take a day off work to travel to the nearest large town.

➤ <http://www.innoafrica.org/>

23,000

people impacted

\$20,000

grant from the ERM Foundation

\$700

annual cost savings for the health center

Conservation and biodiversity

During FY15, the ERM Foundation disbursed **\$104,000** in grants to 15 conservation and biodiversity projects in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Tanzania, Indonesia, Australia and the United States. An additional **767 hours** of technical *pro bono* support has been provided by ERM employees.

Protecting great crested newts in the United Kingdom

Partner organization:
The Avon Wildlife Trust

Habitat loss and the introduction of invasive species has led to a huge decline in the population of great crested newts during the last century. Great crested newts (small amphibians) are now a protected species under European law.

The Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) is a UK-based conservation group that cares for 37 nature reserves covering 3,000 acres of land in the South West of England. AWT has been working in recent years to protect and restore the habitat of the great crested newt.

The role of the ERM Foundation

A team of ecologists from ERM's Bristol office have been working with AWT to undertake ecological monitoring to identify the presence and distribution of local newt populations. During three monitoring events in 2014, the ERM team identified newt populations in two locations, which will feed into AWT's management plans and inform their on-going management of the sites. The ERM team has also trained local AWT staff and volunteers so that they are equipped to undertake future monitoring activities.

A key objective of this project is to improve understanding of the long term viability of great crested newt populations and monitor the outcomes and impacts of any changes to AWT's management plan. The ERM team hopes to maintain its relationship with AWT in the coming years and provide on-going monitoring in the area.

► <http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/>



ERM employees conducting monitoring activities

ERM people profile



Alex Sharp,
Bristol office

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I assisted with the development and submission of the ERM Foundation proposal and once our bid was accepted I worked alongside colleagues in the ERM Geographical Information System and ecology teams to coordinate and manage the surveys that took place across the three sites. With such fantastic ecology on our doorstep, our team here in Bristol was keen to get involved supporting this local charity. Personally, having previously worked with AWT, I was aware of the great work they carry out on very limited budgets and was delighted that we were able to lend professional support through the ERM Foundation.

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Empowering women and girls



\$18,700 grant
Beneficiaries:
350 people
(cooperative members
and their families)

Africa Development Promise

Sustainable agriculture and female empowerment in Rwanda

Partner organization: Africa Development Promise

More than 70 percent of Rwanda's rural population relies on subsistence farming for food security and employment. Crop yields are hampered severely during the long dry season, which lasts for up to seven months.

Africa Development Promise (ADP) works in Rwanda and Uganda to serve as a catalyst for economic growth by building profitable agricultural cooperatives aimed at strengthening the local economy.

We are working with ADP to support a women's cooperative in the Bugesera district of Rwanda to install greenhouses that are equipped with elevated 1,000-liter water tanks. The water tanks are kept full during the rainy season via inexpensive hand pumps, and irrigation lines from the local borehole act as reservoirs during dry seasons. In addition to protecting farmers from drought, these greenhouses save water due to higher humidity and low levels of loss through evaporation. As such, they offer an effective model for sustainable agriculture in the region.

The role of the ERM Foundation

The ERM Foundation has provided a grant of \$18,700 to ADP to support the Bugesera cooperative. Our funding has helped to install a new greenhouse with an improved year-round irrigation system that promises to increase crop yields and income for the 66 women by up to 500 percent by the end of the first year. The women have also received training on the principles of farming and managing a cooperative enterprise.

Project outcomes

In May 2015, the 66 women enjoyed their first harvest since the new greenhouse and irrigation system were installed, which produced 500 kg of tomatoes. The cooperative has secured a contract with a local buyer, wherein the women are selling the tomatoes for approximately \$0.50 per kg. This is nearly double the predicted value and, if consistent, will increase the income of the cooperative by a factor of 20.

➤ <http://www.africadevelopmentpromise.org/>

Partner profile



Monica Labiche Brown,
Africa Development
Promise

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The first yield brought 500kg of tomatoes and the cooperative's profit that week was approximately \$250.00, which is more than they previously earned in a full year. Marie Rose, President of the cooperative, wants 'all members to have money for school fees for their children, health insurance, and be able to afford a good house.' Their aspirations have come a long way since simply wanting to buy mattresses for their families to sleep on!

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Environmental education

During FY15, the ERM Foundation disbursed **\$178,000** in grants to 22 environmental education projects in Uganda, Rwanda, Mozambique, Vietnam, Australia and the United States. An additional **219 hours** of technical *pro bono* support has been provided by ERM employees.

Environmental and waste management education for low income children in Brazil

Partner organization: Instituto Ana Rosa, Brazil

The Dona Ana Rosa Institute is a non-profit organization aimed at providing free assistance to more than 1,500 underprivileged children and young people.

Working in partnership with the city government of São Paulo, the Institute has been operating since 1874, promoting cultural, educational and sporting activities for low income children. The 1,500 children and adolescents who use the center come mostly from nearby favelas, where they are accustomed to living in a degraded environment where poor waste management is a feature of daily life. São Paulo recycles less than two percent of its waste, which contributes to a massive city-wide problem.

The role of the ERM Foundation

ERM employees from our São Paulo office are working with the Institute to implement a recycling and reuse program with some of the older children. The objective is to improve waste management within the Institute and equip the 150 participating students with ways to reduce their own environmental impact by recycling and composting – and to share this knowledge within their own homes, schools and communities.

➤ <http://www.anarosa.org.br/>

ERM people profile



Adriana Mello,
São Paulo office



“

I first became involved with the Institute in the 1990s before joining ERM. The ERM Foundation provided me the opportunity to renew my involvement and introduce its programs to others. Through the ERM Foundation, we are now running our third project.

Our most recent project is to install a low-cost solar water heater at the Institute to reduce energy consumption. The Institute has a significant energy demand due to intense use of electric showers by the children. In the first phase, ERM employees performed a field survey to collect data and information to plan the installation and calculate the heater demand and size. In the second phase, the project will train the Institute's adolescents (15 to 17 years old) to build and install the solar-powered water heaters.

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Society of Women Engineers



Blue Sky Fund



ERM Volunteers

Community volunteering: environmental education in the United States

Blue Sky Fund

Blue Sky Fund is a US-based not-for-profit organization that provides experimental science and outdoor education for at-risk, inner-city children in Richmond, Virginia. ERM's Richmond office has been working with Blue Sky Fund since 2012. ERM volunteers have developed a hands-on experiment that covers aspects of groundwater pollution, its effect on the food chain, and the effects of pollution on the communities in which the children live.

➤ <http://www.blueskyfund.org/home.htm>

Society of Women Engineers

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE), founded in 1950, is a not-for-profit organization that promotes engineering as a desirable career choice for women and girls. About nine years ago, the South East Florida section of SWE developed a unique relationship with the Girl Scouts to provide science workshops aimed at inspiring girls to learn more about engineering and its positive impact on the natural environment. The ERM Foundation has supported this program with \$13,000 in grant funding and hands-on volunteering and technical support from employees in ERM's Tampa and Miami offices. The ERM employees have participated in workshop planning and curriculum development, 'Meet an Engineer' table talks, and as volunteer Board members and officers.

➤ <http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org/>

ERM people profile



Bernly Bressler,
ERM Branch Manager,
Richmond, Virginia

“

I have been working with the Blue Sky Fund for three years. The ERM team and I have developed a hands-on groundwater pollution experiment and transformed that experiment into a teaching session for eight-year-old children. This experiment is thrilling for the kids and the content meets the Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools. As a team, the Richmond office has been delivering this experiment to each of the 'explorers groups' for several years.

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The Low Carbon Enterprise Fund

The Low Carbon Enterprise Fund (LCEF), a program of the ERM Foundation, is an impact investment fund that provides financial, technical and management support for innovative low carbon entrepreneurs who operate in developing countries.

Globally, **1.2 billion people** have no access to mains electricity. This is a significant barrier to development and also contributes to carbon emissions, as many people are forced to rely on firewood, kerosene and other carbon-intensive sources of fuel for their energy needs.

From a health perspective, one person dies every 20 seconds from indoor air pollution caused by cooking on open fires.

In response to these global challenges, the LCEF was established to build sustainable, commercially viable businesses that

support local livelihoods while creating access to affordable low carbon products and services. The entrepreneurs we work with are supported by ERM employees with the provision of much-needed technical and management support on a *pro bono* basis.

Some highlights from LCEF II

Kingo

Pay-as-you-go solar electricity for off-grid communities in Guatemala

In Guatemala, half of the 15 million population live below the poverty line and 20 percent are not connected to mains electricity. Kingo serves this population with an affordable pre-paid solar electricity service, which is safer, cleaner and cheaper than alternative sources of fuel such as kerosene. The LCEF investment has enabled Kingo to expand its operations and, this year, 2,300 new families have been able to access solar-powered energy for their homes.

Ehands

Renewable energy in rural India

400 million Indians are not connected to the electricity grid, which fuels dependency on kerosene, firewood and other unsustainable and often unhealthy sources of energy. This year, the LCEF invested in a company called Ehands. Ehands provides a range of solar and wind-solar hybrid systems, which are particularly suitable for remote locations. By the end of FY15, Ehands had created access to energy for more than 5,000 people across 14 states in India.



Ehands, solar energy for rural communities in India.

\$1.9 million

funds invested since 2008

18

low carbon businesses supported since 2008

242

full time jobs created

87k tonnes

of CO₂ saved annually by LCEF investee companies



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In FY15, LCEF ventures helped avoid 87,000 tonnes of CO₂, while providing permanent employment for 242 people, and delivering products, services and markets for 1.3 million disadvantaged customers or suppliers.

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