

It is estimated that 1 billion people lack access to electricity around the world<sup>[1]</sup>. As of 2011, 33% of families living in rural areas had no access to electricity<sup>[2]</sup>, instead relying on fuel based lighting sources. One community that lacks such access is Todos Santos, Guatemala. The livelihoods of people living in the surrounding villages are dependent primarily on agriculture, usually in locations where grid extensions are unfeasible. As a result, it is difficult to access electricity that's affordable, leaving families with expensive, inefficient, and often hazardous power sources such as batteries and fuel based lighting.



**1 billion people lack access to electricity worldwide [1]**



**10-15% of a family's monthly income in Todos Santos goes towards fuel based lighting, batteries, or "renting" electricity**

### Our response

The Fig Tree Foundation invests in projects structured around three pillars- capacity, collaboration, and community development. In response to global issues, such as access to affordable and clean energy for everyone, the Fig Tree Foundation supports Calgary-based international non-governmental organizations working on projects that are sustainable, transparent, efficient, and collaborative. The ultimate goal is to transform international development to create self-sustaining communities worldwide. By investing in Light Up the World's work in Guatemala, the installation of 350 solar panels in Todos Santos provided access to safe and affordable energy while subsequently creating local jobs in the community, leading to more meaningful livelihoods for residents in the long-term. Technicians were trained to maintain these systems, allowing them to generate income while ensuring the solar panels in the community were functioning.

## Funded Projects Dashboard

Location of project: Guatemala



Project goals: Energy accessibility in rural communities

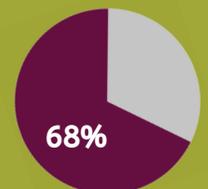
Roundtable Member: Light Up the World

Year organization was founded: 1994

In-country partner: Institution Maya de Desarrollo Integral

Length of project: 2 years (2014-2016)

Proportion of project funded by FTF:



Grant amount: \$20,000 CAD

This project contributes to SDG's...



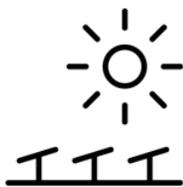


## The Impact

Since Fig Tree Foundation funding in 2014, 350 Solar Panels were installed in Todos Santos. The residents paid a small fee to have solar panels installed and local technicians were given extensive training to manage the construction and repair of the units. The usage of solar energy was a great success within the communities, with many more families in the area interested in purchasing their own installation.

One of the families that benefited from the project was Santo and her husband Macari, along with their two daughters. Before having the solar panel system, they had to go outside during the evenings and do their homework in the light of a streetlamp. Their solar system provides reliable light which ensures that their children could do their schoolwork at home.

Through the installation, Santo and Macari also save about \$11 CAD each month on alternate power sources such as candles, batteries, or fuel. Through the installation of solar panel units and employment residents to maintain the system, this project has a lasting impact on Todos Santos and will continue to provide accessible energy, education opportunities, and meaningful economic growth for many generations.



350 Solar Panels installed



Average annual savings of  
\$132 CAD on alternate  
power sources per family



New employment for 9  
local technicians



Click to learn more about the great work [Light Up the World](#) is doing around the world

## References

<sup>[1]</sup> **UN Sustainable Development Goals- Accessible energy for all (2015) United Nations,**  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg7>

<sup>[2]</sup> **Access to electricity, rural (% of population) (2011) World Bank Open Data.**  
<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EG.ELC.ACCS.ZS?view=chart>