WindAid launches first “Community Wind Workshop” in Playa Blanca, Peru

Press Release

Thursday 23 June 2016
Trujillo, Peru

Peru-based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), WindAid Institute is building a Community Wind Workshop in Playa Blanca, providing a permanent local facility to maintain and build small scale wind turbines in this coastal community.

Playa Blanca has little infrastructure for its 60 families, including no connection to the electricity grid. This impacts every area of the residents’ lives as they try to earn a living, study and bring up their families. Diesel generators are expensive and polluting, and you can’t charge a mobile phone from a candle! Peru is already suffering the effects of a changing climate, but has ideal conditions for generating energy from renewable sources.

WindAid, which specializes in small-scale wind energy, has been working with Playa Blanca on an electrification program for the last four years, taking advantage of the abundant wind supply. Turbines are being provided for every family that wants one; 15 so far.

Playa Blanca community resident Sr. Domingo Morales Coronado talked about the benefits a turbine had brought his family “The benefit is good for all...especially for my child who studies and does their homework at night. And for my work at night or early in the morning when I get up to sew (fishing nets).”

Taking electrification further towards the community having autonomy over their own services, is the Community Wind Workshop. This center will provide living and working spaces for WindAid volunteers, and in the longer term facilities for local technicians, trained in maintenance and construction of turbines. This will allow faster, more efficient repairs and improvements and provide employment and a valuable resource for the community and the surrounding area. WindAid’s goal is to have a network of these ‘regional hubs’ supporting its turbines – now numbering over 50 across multiple communities in the coast and highlands of northwest Peru.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nick Warren, co-founder of WindAid Institute said “we are excited to take this next step where we don’t just electrify the houses but we give the whole community lasting access to clean renewable energy and a source of education and empowerment.”

The joint team from WindAid and the community has already put in the posts, walls and a temporary roof to the first three rooms. Phase 1 should be completed in November 2016 to provide a basic facility and the workshop will be fully operational by early 2017.

To raise the funds, WindAid’s first crowdfunding event is aiming for $35,000 by 4 July 2016. At the time of writing 96 backers from across the world had pledged over $7,800, for rewards from classic Peruvian handicrafts to a full month’s installation program. The level of support not only from people with a connection to WindAid, but also those who recognize the value of the workshop has been an inspiration to the project team.

WindAid Institute’s new event has been selected by crowdfunding site Kickstarter as a Project We Love. This is a fantastic endorsement of a vital project giving sustainable, reliable energy to a remote fishing village in northern Peru, Playa Blanca.

-- ENDS --

Further resources:
- WindAid Institute website - http://www.windaid.org/
- WindAid Institute Case Statement
- WindAid Institute Annual Report 2015
- Press Pack – WindAid Institute Community Wind Workshop
- Press Pack – Playa Blanca Background
- WindAid Facebook page - https://bg-bg.facebook.com/WindAidInstitute/
- #lightupalife
- Photos – contact us for pictures of the community and the wind workshop under construction

Contact:
Beth Brown
Fundraising and Communications Officer
Communications@windaid.org

###