

# Institutional Issues in Village Power

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## Observations of Village Power

- Electricity is not the goal
- Technology is not the problem
- Site selection is more than resource assessment
- Demonstration Vs. pilot projects
- Engineers can not do it all



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## Lessons from Traditional Rural Electrification Experience

- Competing for funds with health, education and road projects
- High cost must be offset by high economic impact
- Must clearly quantify/justify economic costs and benefits (Munasinghe, 1987; Barnes, 1988)

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## **Uso Productivo de la Electricidad**

*Cualquier uso de la electricidad que  
mejore la situación financiera del  
usuario final o que provee un  
estímulo para el desarrollo  
económico*

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## **There is no Single Institutional Answer!**

**Some institutional models tried in renewable-  
based hybrid village power**

- + None - Xcalak
- + State utility - Joanes & Campinas, Brazil
- + Private sector- Essene Way Resort, Belize  
Casa Blanca Resort, Mexico
- + Other

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## What can we do to make village power work?

- Let's assure presence of political will at all levels before we get too far.
- Let's coordinate with other development activities
- Let's understand local conditions.
- Let's select our partners (and sites) well
- Let's do true pilot projects!
- Let's show how renewables can really work!

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