

RSVP RENEWABLES FOR SUSTAINABLE
VILLAGE POWER

PROJECT BRIEF

Renewables for Sustainable Village Power (RSVP) Web Site

by Julie Cardinal 7/98

Background

The RSVP Program supplies information to both private and public stakeholders through a World Wide Web site at <http://www.rsvp.nrel.gov>. The information provided on the Web site is regularly updated to maintain its usefulness and to help develop and foster working relationships with those interested in village power projects around the world.

Scope

The RSVP Web site provides a variety of information on topics such as applications, contacts, and the development of renewable energy projects.

Database. The RSVP database has information on more than 140 international village power projects from more than 20 countries. The database is searchable by technology (e.g., wind, photovoltaics), application (e.g., lights, water), sector (e.g., residential, commercial), and geographical region (see Table 1). Each project entry contains information on economic, financial, institutional, and technical aspects. Host country, project participants, and lessons learned are also included.

Analytical models. The site contains descriptions of analytical models developed and used by the RSVP program. The models include the Hybrid Optimization Model for Electric Renewables (HOMER), the Village Power Optimization model for Renewables (ViPOR), and *Hybrid2*.

Discussion forum. The forum site provides a platform for sharing experiences and opinions on issues related to village power through e-mail. Here you can find announcements of new village power services, requests for information, requests for proposals, Internet resources, project opportunities, and updates on the RSVP Program. The discussions provide networking opportunities and address topics such as new technologies, social and cultural issues in village power, economics and financing, and working with various development institutions. Past discussions can be viewed on the site's archives link.

Village Power event calendar. The calendar provides information on upcoming meetings and conferences.

Library. The site library has publications information from NREL and other rural development organizations such as

the World Bank and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). It also contains the RSVP team publications, masters theses and doctoral dissertations, and links to related Internet libraries.

The RSVP Web site also contains links to other Internet resources on renewable energy, excerpts on issues in village power, renewable energy contacts, and information on the annual Village Power Conference.

Status and Planned Activities

Since its inception, the RSVP Web Site has undergone several changes. The password-protected database has been replaced with a registration page. This allows the site to be monitored and evaluated to serve its users better. New users are not required to have a password to see RSVP information. The projects were converted into a Microsoft Access 97 Database, allowing instantaneous access to new information. An electronic system was established which allows project leaders to easily update their information. The Asian section of the database also was expanded.

NREL plans to expand the database and continue to regularly update the project information. Other activities include increasing the number of site users, monitoring and updating Web site links, and continuing to offer useful, easily accessible information.

NREL Contact

Web site: <http://www.rsvp.nrel.gov>

Julie Cardinal
NREL/NWTC
Phone: (303) 384-7019
Fax: (303) 384-6901 e-mail: julie_cardinal@nrel.gov

Produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory.

Printed with renewable source ink on paper containing at least 50% wastepaper, including 20% postconsumer waste.

NREL/FS-520-24632

Partial Matrix of RSVP Database Projects

Count of Region		Technology										
Region	Application	*	Biogas	Biomass Combustion	Diesel	Geothermal	Hybrid System(s)	Micro Hydro	Photo- voltaics	Solar Thermal	Wind	Grand Total
Caribbean	Battery charging							1			1	2
	Ice maker								1			1
	Lights								6			6
	Mini grid										1	1
	Refrigerator								1			1
	Water pump								4		1	5
Caribbean Total		4						1	12		3	
Central America	Battery charging										3	3
	Computer								1			1
	Lightrs								6		2	8
	Power tools								2			2
	Productive uses							1				1
	Sewing machine								3			3
	Stores							1				1
	TV								1			1
	Village power							1				1
	Water pump							1	2			3
Central America Total								4	15		5	24

Table 1. The matrix cross-tabulates projects' technologies by their applications. For example, if a project has two technologies listed and one application, it is counted twice and so forth.