

GOOD NEWS

MUKURU CLEAN STOVES: EARTHSHOT CLEAN AIR PRIZEWINNER 2022

Kenya's Mukuru Clean Stoves is one of the five 2022 winners of the second-annual Earthshot Prize awards, receiving a £1 million prize after a nine-month search for the most inventive and inspiring answers to the most pressing environmental problems the world is currently experiencing.

Across Africa, 700 million people use traditional cookstoves, which emit harmful chemicals and lack safeguards. Mukuru Clean Stoves are different.

Growing up in Mukuru, one of Nairobi's largest slums, for years Charlot Magayi sold charcoal for fuel. That charcoal was the cause of respiratory infections for her and her neighbors. Then, in 2012, her daughter was severely burnt by a charcoal-burning stove. Seeking a better solution, in 2017 she founded Mukuru Clean Stoves.

Rather than burning dangerous solid fuels, Mukuru Clean Stoves use processed biomass made from charcoal, wood and sugarcane. This burns cleaner, creating 90 percent less pollution than an open fire and 70 percent less than a traditional cookstove. They are cheaper too, costing just \$10 and halving ongoing fuel costs.

Today, 200,000 people in Kenya use Mukuru Clean Stoves, saving \$10 million in fuel costs and saving lives too. In rural areas, where young girls often spend three hours a day collecting firewood, they also save precious time. A female-founded business with mostly female staff and distribution agents, Mukuru is empowering women to make a living by making a difference. Magayi plans to create an even cleaner stove that burns ethanol. In three years, she hopes to reach one million customers. In ten years, she plans to reach ten million people all over Africa.

SOLAR FARM PLANT FOR FRENCH CAR PARKS

New legislation now requires car park owners with space for 80 or more cars to install solar panels above the parking spaces. This could add 11 gigawatts to the power grid, equivalent to a dozen nuclear reactors.

EXPANSION OF FOODBANK FACILITIES

Last week Jo Crook, leader of Highway Church came to our J and P meeting and told how the foodbank is expanding with a new project which will include a Clothes Bank, with clean clothes, facilities for showers and washing machines for clients' clothes and a café open to the public at which food bank clients will be able to have a free chef cooked meal. Much of the money required for this project has been obtained in answer to prayer.

LLOYD'S TURNS OFF THE TAPS ON NEW FOSSIL FUEL FUNDING

The bank has pledged to stop funding new oil and gas projects, in a major turning point for the transition to renewables. The charity "Share Action" said "it sets a new standard for the UK banking industry. We urge Barclays and HSBC to swiftly follow suit."

FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

From Aid To The Church In Need 17th February: There is almost no sign of international aid for Syria, only some volunteers from Lebanon.

THE UNKNOWN GIANTS OF THE DEEP SEA

A BBC "FUTURE" programme stated that oceans make up 99.5% of the planet's habitat by volume, mainly unexplored depths with scores of large animals unknown to science. It is only recently that these depths are to be explored. New species are being found at depths of 2500 metres: including 4 feet long fish. Tusked whales are one new species.

The UN's body for mining in international waters has not come to a consensus on regulations for a deep sea mining and so this summer could see the start of mining activity with no regulations and unknown consequences.

THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL

Antonio Guterres has warned that the world could be facing a wider war on the first anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "The prospect of Peace keeps diminishing, the chances of further escalation and bloodshed keeps growing. I fear the world is not

sleepwalking into a wider war. I fear it is doing so with its eyes wide open“.

PACT (PRISONERS ADVICE AND CARE TRUST)

A new report “NOBODY’S LISTENING” found that half of all prisoners had a mental health problem and a third had a serious addiction. The report emphasises the key role that families can play in prison health care.

ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK

THIS WEEK WE CELEBRATE THE BEGINING OF LENT

This gives us all the opportunity to reflect upon our lives and actions, to take time to pray for those in need, for justice and peace in our lives and in our world. May our Lent be a time of blessing for ourselves and for others.

NIGERIA has major elections this Saturday 25th February. May we pray that they will be carried out fairly, with no violence and that people will vote for the best candidates who promote ethical values and will work for the good of all their people.
