

SUMMARY OF THE LOCAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING IN REPUBLIC OF MALAWI CONDUCTED BETWEEN 7th to 10th APRIL 2026

INTRODUCTION

BURN Manufacturing Co its affiliates and related entities are inviting stakeholders to review the outcomes of the Local Stakeholder Consultations that took place from 7th to 10th April 2026 in Lilongwe, and Blantyre- Malawi. During the stakeholder meetings, BURN Manufacturing Co its affiliates and related entities introduced its clean cookstove Voluntary Carbon Project Activities which entails dissemination of highly efficient improved cookstoves in Republic of Malawi. The Voluntary Project Activities (VPAs) will be included under the Gold Standard Programme of Activities (PoA), **‘Clean Cooking Biomass Solutions Program for Africa’**

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS:

Registration:

Participants arrived and were asked to sign the attendance list. Participants attending through Zoom Link for the Meeting registered online to access the meeting.

Welcome Remarks:

Participants in person were welcomed by BURN Manufacturing team, for all the meetings. Introductions of the present participants were done for both the physical Meetings and the those who had joined online. The purpose of the meeting and the agenda were explained to the audience.

Project Presentation:

BURN Manufacturing Co its affiliates and related entities started the presentation by explaining the project in detail; they presented the main goals of the program and its benefits for the local communities, as well as the ICS technology involved in the project. They also took time to remind the stakeholders about climate change and its causes, and they briefly explained the theory of the carbon credits, carbon markets and the development of carbon projects.

BURN Manufacturing and its appointed affiliates took some time to explain carefully to the stakeholders that the transfer of rights to the carbon credits generated using the stoves would be transferred to BURN and its appointed affiliates as the Coordinating Management Entity of the entire project. The carbon waiver was demonstrated to be on the strap that wraps the stove box, and the Paper Strip on the Opening of the Stove Box and by the end user cutting this strap/strip, they would be waiving their claims to any Verified Emission reductions generated using that stove. The purpose for this and the way in which BURN would use the revenues from the sale of the carbon credits was explained clearly in the presentation during the LSC meeting.

Questions and answers session:

Stakeholders raised many questions about the price of the ECOA CHAR / ECOA WOOD and its quality, as well as the expected timeline for the project and the distribution plans. They expressed a lot of interest in the involvement of the communities and more particularly the involvement of women. Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of ensuring the stoves reach all the 28 Districts of Malawi at an affordable price and how they can pay in small amounts on monthly basis. All these questions and comments were fully and satisfactorily answered by the project proponents.

Presentation of the Safeguarding Principles and Sustainability assessment of the project:

BURN and its appointed affiliates explained the project’s Safeguarding Principles and their assessment. The stakeholders were continuously consulted for feedback and comments, as an open discussion. The meeting continued with a presentation of the SDGs, and on the positive impacts of the project on a few specific SDGs. Participants agreed with the assessment and did not have further comments. BURN and its appointed affiliates presented the grievance mechanism as well as how the sustainable development impacts will be monitored.

Closure of the meeting:

The evaluation forms were then distributed to the participants. The team expressed its appreciation to all participants who attended the meeting and who offered many constructive suggestions. The meeting closed with a demonstration with the ECOA CHAR and ECOA Wood stove.

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Gender of Stakeholder	Stakeholder comment	Was comment taken into account (Yes/ No)?	Explanation (Why? How?)
M	How do you measure emissions reductions in a specific area? Is there any indexes?	Yes	Emissions reductions are measured by comparing a baseline scenario (traditional cooking methods) with the project scenario after improved stoves are introduced. Data on fuel consumption, stove use, and efficiency is collected through surveys and monitoring. The difference is calculated in tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent (tCO ₂ e) and verified using recognized carbon accounting methodologies.
M	What is the efficiency of the stove?	Yes	The stove has a thermal efficiency of approximately 71%, which is significantly higher than traditional cooking methods. This high efficiency allows food to cook faster while using less fuel. As a result, households save time and reduce charcoal consumption, contributing to both economic savings and environmental benefits
M	Where are the carbon credits sold?	Yes	The carbon credits generated by the project are sold in both the voluntary carbon market and the compliance (mandatory) carbon market. These markets allow organizations and institutions to purchase credits to offset their emissions while supporting projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development

M	How does the company create jobs along the value chain?	Yes	The company creates direct and indirect employment across several stages of the value chain, including assembly, distribution, sales, monitoring, and after-sales services. Opportunities are generated for sales agents, technicians, field staff, and community partners, while local collaborations also support repair services and logistics, strengthening economic activity within the communities
M	What is the stove treatment or maintenance plan?	Yes	The project includes a post-sale support system with repair, revitalization, and recovery services. Customers can bring their stoves to designated repair centers where technicians assess and fix or replace them.
M	What warranty does the stove have?	Yes	The stove comes with a one-year free warranty covering manufacturing defects. After this period, repair services are available at a s,all cost.
M	Are subsidies fixed for every clean cooking company?	Yes	No, subsidies are not fixed for every company. They depend on the structure of each project, the partnerships involved, and the carbon financing model. Different clean cooking initiatives may receive varying levels of support depending on their funding sources, carbon credit revenues, and development partners.
M	Has the stove improved over time, or has it always been the same?	Yes	The stove has improved over time. The company maintains a Research and Development department that continuously works on improving stove design, durability, efficiency, and user experience, based on field feedback and technological advancements.
M	The stove has 71% efficiency and is considered Tier 5. How is this determined and where was it tested?	Yes	The efficiency level is determined through standardized laboratory testing that measures thermal performance, fuel consumption, and emissions. These tests are conducted using internationally recognized protocols such as the Water Boiling Test. Results are then classified according to the Clean Cooking Alliance performance tiers, where Tier 5 represents the highest level of efficiency and performance.
M	How long has the company been operating?	Yes	The company has been operating since 2013 in Kenya, gradually expanding throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. It began operations in Malawi in 2026 bringing clean cooking solutions, community engagement, and carbon reduction initiatives to local households while continuously improving its products and services.
F	To what extent do partners finance the projects? Are the rates fixed?	Yes	The exact financing contributions from partners and the rates are confidential (NDA-protected). Funding levels vary depending on each partnership, project scope, and agreements in place, so the financial structure is not publicly disclosed.

F	Are the funds reimbursed?	Yes	No, the funds provided by partners to support the projects are not reimbursed. They are considered contributions or subsidies to enable the deployment of clean cooking solutions, community support, and carbon reduction initiatives without expecting repayment.
M	How does the company handle marketing?	Yes	The company markets its stoves through multiple channels to reach both urban and rural communities. Strategies include mobile sales agents, mass sales stands in strategic locations, local retail stores, social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, website), and community/partner events. Marketing also emphasizes awareness campaigns on health, efficiency, and environmental benefits.
M	What after-sales services does the company provide?	Yes	The company provides comprehensive after-sales support, including follow-up calls and household visits, annual monitoring of stove use, awareness campaigns on safe and efficient cooking, and repair services at designated centers. These services ensure proper stove use, maintenance, and long-term satisfaction for customers.
F	Do you feel the project contributes to the energy transition?	Yes	Yes, the project actively contributes to the energy transition by promoting cleaner, more efficient cooking technologies that reduce reliance on traditional biomass fuels. By lowering deforestation, decreasing emissions, and supporting sustainable energy practices, it helps communities move toward cleaner, low-carbon energy solutions
M	What is the stove distribution process, and is there collaboration with other entities?	Yes	The distribution is vertically integrated, allowing the company to control impact, monitor stove allocation, and keep prices affordable. This method ensures efficient delivery, proper usage, and quality management.
M	Why is the project not more widely publicized?	Yes	The project announcement has been shared through several communication channels, including radio, newspapers, email invitations, physical invitations, LinkedIn, the website, and Facebook. Meetings and events also serve as a form of outreach, as invited participants can interact with different stakeholders and discuss the topics addressed by the project.
M	Does ECOA have an environmental education program? If so, how is it implemented?	Yes	ECOA runs environmental awareness campaigns directly in the homes of clients and their nearby neighbors, both in urban and rural areas. These campaigns are carried out by trained company agents who educate communities on sustainable cooking practices and the benefits of using improved stoves.

M	Does ECOA have national certifications?	Yes	The stoves are still efforts to get the national certification process. However, the company had already hold international recognitions, including Archuden, ISO, and the Environmental Charter UN, ensuring quality and compliance with global environmental standards.
M	Where can the stoves be purchased?	Yes	The stoves are distributed through Business-to-Customer (B2C) agents who engage in door-to-door sales within target communities
M	Where were the studies presented in this meeting conducted?	Yes	The studies are based on both secondary data sources and primary data collected directly through continuous interaction with the communities. This approach ensures that the findings reflect the real conditions and needs of the households and local environments.
F	What mechanisms ensure long-term project sustainability?	Yes	ECOA relies on long-term partnerships and promotes the regulation of the carbon market. By engaging with both the mandatory and voluntary carbon markets, the project creates financial and institutional mechanisms that support sustainability and ongoing impact.
M	How does ECOA raise awareness and build consciousness in rural areas?	Yes	Awareness is promoted through targeted campaigns and post-sale support via local points and partnerships with nearby workshops. Large-scale repair campaigns, an active customer hotline, and household visits ensure communities understand the benefits of improved stoves and maintain proper use over time.
M	How does the project combat pollution?	Yes	The project reduces pollution by promoting the use of improved cookstoves that emit minimal smoke compared to traditional stoves and open fires. By lowering indoor air pollution, households experience better health, and the surrounding environment benefits from reduced particulate emissions. Additionally, efficient fuel use decreases demand for firewood and charcoal, helping to limit deforestation and carbon emissions
M	Do women have opportunities to work and contibute?	Yes	There is no gender inequality in ECOA. Women participate at all levels of the organizational hierarchy, their voices are heard, and their contributions are valued and recognized. The project ensures equal opportunities, empowering women to engage fully in both professional and community roles.

M	How does ECOA contribute to the basic needs of the communities?	Yes	ECOA contributes to basic community needs by providing a clean and improved cookstove at an affordable price. The stove reduces the need for biomass for cooking, producing less smoke and helping lower health risks. Through awareness campaigns, communities also learn about safer, more efficient, and sustainable cooking practices.
M	How do you implement social responsibility and support communities?	Yes	ECOA supports communities through awareness campaigns that promote efficient energy use and environmental protection. The project encourages fuel savings, helping reduce deforestation. The stove is designed to meet local cooking needs and is durable, ensuring long-term benefits and reliable use for households in the communities. The stove is offered at a price 4 times lower than the production cost
M	How do you combat deforestation?	Yes	ECOA helps combat deforestation by reducing the demand for cooking fuels such as charcoal and firewood. With improved efficiency, a sack of charcoal that previously lasted one month can last three months or more. This significant reduction in fuel consumption decreases pressure on forests and limits tree cutting.
M	How does ECOA plan to reach rural areas where firewood is more commonly used?	Yes	ECOA adopts several strategies to reach rural communities. The stove is offered at a subsidized price, and solutions are adapted to local cooking practices. In rural areas, where firewood is more common, improved wood stoves are available, while charcoal stoves are mainly distributed in urban and peri-urban areas. Sales agents also actively travel to expand market penetration. Promotion of awareness campaigns
M	How does ECOA ensure consistent use of the stove by households?	Yes	ECOA stoves are designed to be practical and convenient for daily cooking. They are lightweight, conventional in design, and do not overheat. With high thermal efficiency and adjustable heat levels, they can be safely used indoors. The stoves are also durable, with a lifespan of two to five years
M	What precautions should be taken when using the stove?	Yes	Users should avoid getting the stove wet and clean it regularly using a damp cloth followed by a dry cloth. It is also important to remove excess charcoal and ashes when the stove is not in use and avoid using detergents. Regular cleaning helps maintain efficiency and durability

M	What are the potential risks with the stove?	Yes	The stove concentrates heat on the cooking pot rather than heating the surrounding environment, High combustion temperatures can cause burns during handling , if its handled poorly
F	Does the stove help reduce smoke and environmental impacts caused by human activities?	Yes	The ECOA CHAR/ ECOA WOOD are specifically designed to reduce smoke and environmental impacts caused by human activities, especially traditional cooking practices.
F	Are the stove imported or produced locally?	Yes	The stoves are now being manufactured and assembled locally in a factory based in Blantyre , Malawi.
M	What type of charcoal can be used with the stove?	Yes	The stove was designed primarily to be used with charcoal, which is the most common cooking fuel in many households. However, the stove is flexible and does not reject the use of other types of charcoal, as long as they are suitable for household cooking and properly ignited.
M	What is ECOA's position on corruption?	Yes	ECOA does not support or engage in corruption, either directly or indirectly. The organization monitors its employees and partners to ensure that all activities are conducted with integrity and transparency. Strong internal oversight helps maintain ethical standards and ensures that the project operates responsibly in all communities.
F	How does ECOA address discrimination?	Yes	ECOA promotes equality and inclusion in its operations. The organization monitors its practices to prevent discrimination and ensures that opportunities are based on people's abilities and competencies. By empowering individuals and allocating human resources according to their skills, ECOA aims to create a fair and respectful working environment.
M	How does ECOA support low-income and vulnerable customers?	Yes	The stove is offered at a subsidized price thanks to the support of ECOA's partners. Through these partnerships, the project works to make the product accessible to as many households as possible, especially those with limited income, ensuring that cleaner and more efficient cooking solutions are affordable.

SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT OF SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES

It was explained during the meeting that the aim of the project is to disseminate highly efficient clean cookstoves that would reduce the amount of charcoal and firewood used by households. By this, the project would have positive social, economic, and environmental impacts. The project will follow all safeguarding principles as described in the table below




Safeguarding Principle	Assessment
Human Rights	The Project respects internationally proclaimed human rights and is not complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The project will not discriminate with regards to participation and inclusion.
Gender Equality and Women’s Rights	The project activity does not endorse any form of discrimination based on gender. The project will consider gender roles and the abilities of women and men to participate in the decision/design of the project activity. It will be ensured that both women/women association and men will be invited to the stakeholder consultation so that a representative number of stakeholders of both genders will be present at the local stakeholder consultation meeting.
Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	The project will not expose the community to increased health risks and is not adversely affecting the health of the workers and the community.
Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Peoples, Displacement and Resettlement	The project activity will not have any negative impact on cultural heritage, indigenous people nor will it displace or resettle people.
Corruption	The Project doesn’t involve, be complicit in or inadvertently contribute to or reinforce corruption or corrupt Projects.
Economic Impacts	The project will respect all labour rights. No negative economic consequences are expected from the project activity. On the contrary, it is expected that the project contributes to sustainable economic growth.
Climate and Energy	The project will reduce GHG emissions as will be monitored and verified in line with the carbon standard requirements
Water	The project will not affect natural water patterns/flows or cause any additional erosion and/or water body instability.



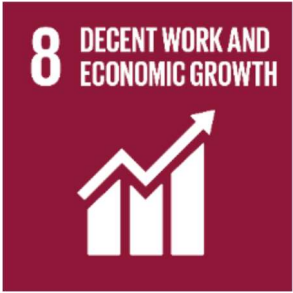

Environment, ecology and land use	<p>The project will not have any negative impact on the environment and ecology and will not involve the use of land and soil for production of crops or other products. The release of particulate matters and carbon monoxide are significantly reduced by the introduction of improved (more efficient) cookstoves.</p>
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The assessment process was interactive and participative. And the stakeholders fully agreed with the assessment done by BURN.

SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

This Project is to contribute to different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the following way:

SDGs	Targets	Proposed monitoring Indicator
	<p>1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.</p>	<p>Monetary savings related to the purchase of charcoal</p> <p>Surveys will be carried out to check on the money spent for purchasing charcoal in the project scenario compared to the baseline scenario.</p>
	<p>3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.</p>	<p>Perceived air quality</p> <p>Surveys will be carried out to check on the pollution-related inconveniences (such as smoke levels, itchy eyes and breathing problems) in the project scenario compared to the baseline scenario.</p>
	<p>4.3 By 2030, substantially increase opportunities to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>Number of people receiving skill development training</p>

SDGs	Targets	Proposed monitoring Indicator
	5.4 By 2030, Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	The design efficiencies of improved cookstoves allow for shorter mealtimes and reduce the frequency of fuel purchases. This then creates time savings, particularly for women and girls, who provide unrecognized labor associated with fuel collection and meal preparation, creating time that can be used for constructive activities of this group of beneficences training, or community engagement.
	7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services. 7.B By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support	Number of sold/distributed ICS in use The total number of ICS sold/distributed is summed up in the database
	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	Number of jobs created
	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.	CO2 emission reductions achieved by the project activity

SDGs	Targets	Proposed monitoring Indicator
	15.3 By 2030, Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Reduction in firewood and charcoal. Surveys and monitoring of firewood consumption trends in project households compared to baseline households to assess impact on forest resources.

Stakeholders' sustainable development assessment was fully in line with BURN's own assessment. In terms of the monitoring of the sustainable development indicators, the stakeholders did not have other comments or suggestions related to the monitoring of the sustainable development indicators. They agreed to proceed with the indicators selected by BURN.

CONTACT US:

If you wish to get in touch with the project for more information, please contact us at:

	Method Chosen (include all known details e.g. location of book, phone, number, identity of mediator)	Justification of Choice (best practice)
Continuous Input / Grievance Expression Process Book (mandatory)	Burn Manufacturing Malawi Limited 4th Floor Unit 1 NBS Building, Corner Victoria Avenue, Chilembv Road P.O. Box 2039, Blantyre-Malawi	Stakeholders welcomed the establishment of an input book at the Malawi office, where any complaints or concerns can be formally recorded and forwarded directly to the head office for action
GS Contact (mandatory)	help@goldstandard.org	Mandatory for Gold Standard Projects
Telephone access (optional)	+265 111 89 99 85	The phone number of Malawi office of BURN will be made known to all project beneficiaries
Internet/email access (optional)	BURN: info@burnmfg.com	BURN's email address will be made known to all project beneficiaries

