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A PROFIT4LIFE™ INITIATIVE BY PLANET2025 NETWORK IN COOPERATION WITH GREENER ETHIOPIA, THE EARTH CHILD INSTITUTE, AMERICAN COUNCIL ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES

## THE POWER OF ONE<sup>∞</sup> SCHOOL

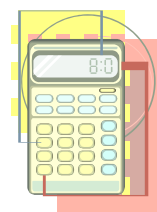


The Power of One<sup>∞</sup> school project was born in the Guraghe zone, a rural area several hours south of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was inspired by the dual challenge of providing a fast growing young population a hopeful future through education and the urgent need to regenerate Ethiopia’s degraded ecosystems. Rapid population growth, unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, and overgrazing have long been responsible for severe land degradation, desertification and soil erosion. The health and development of children is severely challenged by lack of access to safe water, sanitation and clean energy. Ethiopia has only a fraction left of the tree cover it once had. By 2025 its population of 88 million is expected to grow to 110-140 million. Climate change is expected to place an additional burden on the country, affecting the poor in particular. Unless the 46% of the population less than 15 years old can be engaged in a productive economy *and* the country’s life supporting ecosystems can be restored, chronic poverty, poor health and sanitation, social unrest, eco-migration, or worse will be the dim future for most. Participatory and engaging methodologies combined with sustainable environmental solutions support the Power of One vision that every child can make a difference. The Power of One School initiative makes it possible to shape the future differently through multi-stakeholder cooperation, driving the engine of change.

### Power of One<sup>∞</sup> Math 101

One school x 750 students x 100 trees per year = 75,000 trees ÷ 1500 = 50 hectares per year x 6 grades = ecosystems services (food, fibre, fuel, fertilizer, fodder, biodiversity) = education + livelihood + future.

One country x 20 million 6-12 year olds = 2 billion trees per year ÷ 40 trees = 50 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e per annum cooling the planet x carbon value + ecosystems services – School Kit investment = Profits4Life™.



## POWER OF ONE SCHOOL KITS

Protecting the environment, while providing for the health and development of children, are mutually inclusive goals. The child-centred approach of the Power of One School Kit instills and nurtures a daily, life-skills based connection between the child and her/his environment. Our intention is for young people between the ages of 6-12 to engage in creative thinking, fun & learn with digital media and highly relevant problem solving activities, After this six year experience, children will graduate with a foundation of confidence, skills and abilities necessary to move into a secondary school or career training institute, building toward a rewarding future for themselves and their country.

- Power of One School Kits provide a diverse variety of indigenous seeds and training to prepare nursery beds which grow a variety of crops and tree cover that over time and proper maintenance will provide the school community with fruits, vegetables, firewood, vitamins, nutrition, forest cover and biodiversity, sustaining life and helping to cool the planet. Students will understand the link between the crops that they grow and their personal health and well being as well as how these local actions are helping their community adapt to climate change.
- The Power of One School Kits familiarize students with other building blocks of a sustainable future: a solar panel, a small wind turbine, a computer and internet connection, water points, composting toilets, water harvesting equipment, solar cookers and perhaps even a mobile phone or iPod to locate GPS coordinates of their school's forest garden.
- Adaptation to local conditions and cultures, teacher training and ongoing support make 'Power of One' school kits effortless and rewarding for teachers, parents and facilitators.
- Shared learning by teachers and students is reinforced through membership of the Power of One School Network, a community social network providing online access to educational media, forest garden and climate change simulations, tools, and even games designed to accelerate the mainstreaming of forest gardening into the school curriculum.
- Students track and report on student health in relation to environmental conditions; care for their trees and crops; and monitor efficiency of water and energy resources as part of an integral learning experience.
- Food and water security, income, and other benefits produced by a school forest garden are used to provide proper nutrition to students and their families, expand and improve the program, and supplement the school budget.



## FROM VISION TO REALITY

### ONE SCHOOL

The building blocks for a first Power of One School project are being put in place in cooperation with local community leadership, parents and school master of the school in Katbary, Guraghe, Ethiopia. The goal is to establish a living model project during 2009 that can subsequently be replicated by other schools and communities. This initial phase of the project involves development, phasing, testing, documentation and fine-tuning of key components of the Power of One School Kit, as well as securing sustained support from donors and sponsors. Local, regional and international experiences with environmental and climate change education initiatives, garden and green clubs and youth-led initiatives will inform the project's development. Power of One School Kits will be

*"If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish, and you feed him forever"*

aligned with objectives of Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and are being designed to support countries to achieve mutually agreed upon goals for adaptation and mitigation set within the New Delhi Work Programme.

A series of regional, national, and international partnerships will also be cemented to support successful development and implementation of the initiative, including with the renewable energy industry, water and sanitation experts, technology providers, government ministries, youth networks and educators.

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## MORE SCHOOLS

The Power of One School network, to be up and running by the end of 2009, will be a centerpiece for connecting communities, headmasters, and students with both an array of shared learning resources and potential Power of One donors and sponsors of Power of One School Kits. The Power of One School network will thus facilitate increasing empowerment and capacities of its members through access to learning content, knowledge sharing amongst members (including schools in other parts of the world), submission of funding proposals, and keeping donors, sponsors and the Network informed of progress.

Starting 2010, several hundred schools in Ethiopia are expected to enroll in the Power of One School program. Initial pilots are also expected to be launched in a few other countries as part of a concerted effort to regenerate the planet through youth based initiatives around the globe.

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## SCHOOLS EVERYWHERE

By 2010, based on the success of initial schools in Ethiopia, efforts will be made to expand the Power of One Schools into at least three additional countries in other regions of the world.

By 2012 based on success at initial schools enrolled in the program and lessons learned, efforts will be made to make Power of One School Kits available to all interested and eligible schools throughout the initial countries and beyond.

Power of One School projects will be initiated in other countries around the globe faced with similar challenges of engaging youth in a productive economy *and* restoration of life-supporting ecosystems. International and roll out and expansion will be based on a franchised social business model designed to leverage Planet2025's Power of One concept.

## CHANGE THE WORLD

Do you share our vision? Are you interested to help us turn it into reality? The **Power of One<sup>∞</sup>** refers to the ability of one person to inspire those around them to change the world. Each and every one of us has this power, so do what you can, however small, to make the world a better place. We realize the economy is not easy these days, but here are some suggested actions within reach of everyone:

- Contribute **one** dollar or euro per year, month or week and urge your family and friends to do the same.
- Contribute **one** dollar or euro per year, month or week and convince your colleagues at work to follow suit.
- Adopt **one** school with your family, friends and/or colleagues at work by financing a Power of One School Kit or components thereof (available in 2010).
- Make a tax deductible donation online to advance the development and implementation of the Power of One School initiative and/or contact us about sponsor opportunities.

Use your Power of One! Visit us on the web at [www.planet2025.net/powerofoneschool](http://www.planet2025.net/powerofoneschool)

LEADERSHIP FOR CHANGE

**Planet2025 Network** ([www.planet2025.net](http://www.planet2025.net)) is a non-profit social venture testing innovative concepts to mobilize new sources of sustained financing for long term-investment in the globe's life-supporting ecosystems, including its centerpiece activity, Planet2025 Communities, which focuses on integrated agro-forestry and systems thinking to assist communities in developing countries to convert CO2 into things people need in cooperation with others.

**Greener Ethiopia** ([www.greenerethiopia.org](http://www.greenerethiopia.org)) is an Ethiopian non-profit organization which has successfully engaged in the establishment and management of nurseries, the planting of fast growing multipurpose trees, regeneration of local ecosystems, and creation of sustainable livelihoods in cooperation with local communities in the Guraghe zone.

The **Earth Child Institute** ([www.earthchildinstitute.org](http://www.earthchildinstitute.org)) is a US-based non-profit organization supporting governments, the private sector, civil society and UN system partners to develop and implement innovative and participatory, sustainable educational programs and policies to encourage and support the development of children and young people as key stakeholders in climate change, water, energy and environmental health.

The **American Council On Renewable Energy (ACORE)** ([www.acore.org](http://www.acore.org)) is a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. with paying members from every aspect and sector of the renewable energy industries and their trade associations, including wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and biofuels, hydropower tidal/current energy and waste energy.



**Global Challenge Award, Inc.** ([www.globalchallengeaward.org](http://www.globalchallengeaward.org)) is a US based non-profit organization with a mission to give high-school students the tools and confidence to solve global problems together. It believes with ethical and socially responsible use of technology in a project based mode, children can be empowered to be change agents for a better future of this planet.

POWER OF ONE SCHOOL ALLIANCE\*

UNESCO | ORDA | Institute for Environmental Security | Trees for the Future | Global Footprint Network | TransGlobal Ventures | Ethiopian Airlines | UNEP Billion Tree Campaign | UNite for Climate | UNFCCC | Biovision | HoA-REC/N | IUCN Commission on Education and Communications \* to be invited and confirmed

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