

Appendix A

Recommendations by Experts

Oaxaca, Mexico

12 May 2014

The JPAC public forum began with a Keynote presentation by Pedro Pacheco, associate professor at the School of Architecture, Art and Design, ITESM, who presented his perspective on how housing programs and projects for indigenous peoples, in order to be successful, should incorporate local preferences and traditions: from considerations of what local materials are most appropriate to what traditional architecture forms might be most relevant. His presentation was followed by four expert sessions: 1) Air, Energy and Water: Securing High Quality and Affordable Resources in Remote Communities, 2) Barriers that Limit Access to Healthy and Affordable Homes and Resources in Remote Communities, 3) Protecting Communities Most Vulnerable to the Impacts of Climate Change, and 4) Financing for Residential Green Building Projects (New Construction and Retrofits) in Remote Communities. These were followed by a facilitated discussion with participants. The complete Agenda, bios, and presentations can be accessed on the CEC website at:

<http://www.cec.org/Page.asp?PageID=1209&ContentID=25749&SiteLanguageId=1>.

Both expert and public recommendations (Annex B) were captured by Julian Portilla, Director of the Master's degree program in Mediation and Applied Conflict Studies, Woodbury Institute of Champlain College, who served as the Facilitator for the event.

1. Local consent and guidance is essential.
2. Build local capacity for building, managing and servicing projects (housing, energy, food, health, etc.).
3. Establish a monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure that outcomes are what was intended.
4. Behavior changes are nearly impossible without extensive, targeted outreach and education into the nature of the problem being addressed and the benefits of the solution being proposed.
5. Consider renewable energies for reducing the dependence of remote communities on more polluting and potentially dangerous fuels such as diesel and wood.
6. Find ways to finance housing for people who may fall into any one of the following conditions:
 - a. Live on non-traditional land tenure schemes,
 - b. Make their living in the informal economy, and
 - c. Manage their own housing construction projects, probably in a phased manner.
7. Make greater efforts to preserve cultural diversity and traditional knowledge. Because traditional knowledge and ways of relating to the world are intimately related to conserving biodiversity, it is essential to utilize this knowledge in order to create a sustainable future.
8. Showcase architecture designs that both lower construction costs and also create greater structural efficiency, lowering operating costs over the long run.
9. Calculate the operating costs and the capital costs together to understand the “real cost” of a building.

10. Seek partnerships with corporations whose business interests align with the spirit of this forum. For example, Coca Cola needs clean water, CEMEX needs to sell cement. Healthy, sustainable, affordable housing requires both clean water and cement.
11. Develop a legal framework that will help indigenous communities adapt to climate change, empowering them make decisions about their future.
12. Prioritize adaptation and mitigation measures in areas in which high-risk climate assessments coincide with areas of high biocultural diversity, i.e., areas in which indigenous groups are most at risk from the effects of climate change.
13. Promote innovative financing for sustainable housing in urban, low-income settings.
14. Promote financing mechanisms for low-income people seeking to retrofit their homes with efficient, energy- and resource-saving technologies.
15. Promote building codes that raise the minimum green standards.
16. Showcase examples of successful green, low-income housing projects whose total cost is lower than that of traditional projects.
17. Identify and promote successful examples of mechanisms that utilize crowd sourcing to fund efficient, low-income housing projects.