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Making dinner in Africa kills cooks and forests.

200m African households cook with dirty fossil fuels like charcoal or kerosene. This number is projected to rise to 260m by 2030.

Each year more than 1m people die in Africa, and 4m worldwide, as a result of breathing in noxious air from cooking.

The predominant source of these fuels are forests. Chopping down trees for charcoal is the leading cause of deforestation in Africa.

We make cooking 10x cleaner, 40% cheaper, and more convenient for our customers.



Step 1: Loan users the best performing cookstove available, to customers who now mostly cook over sooty charcoal fires.



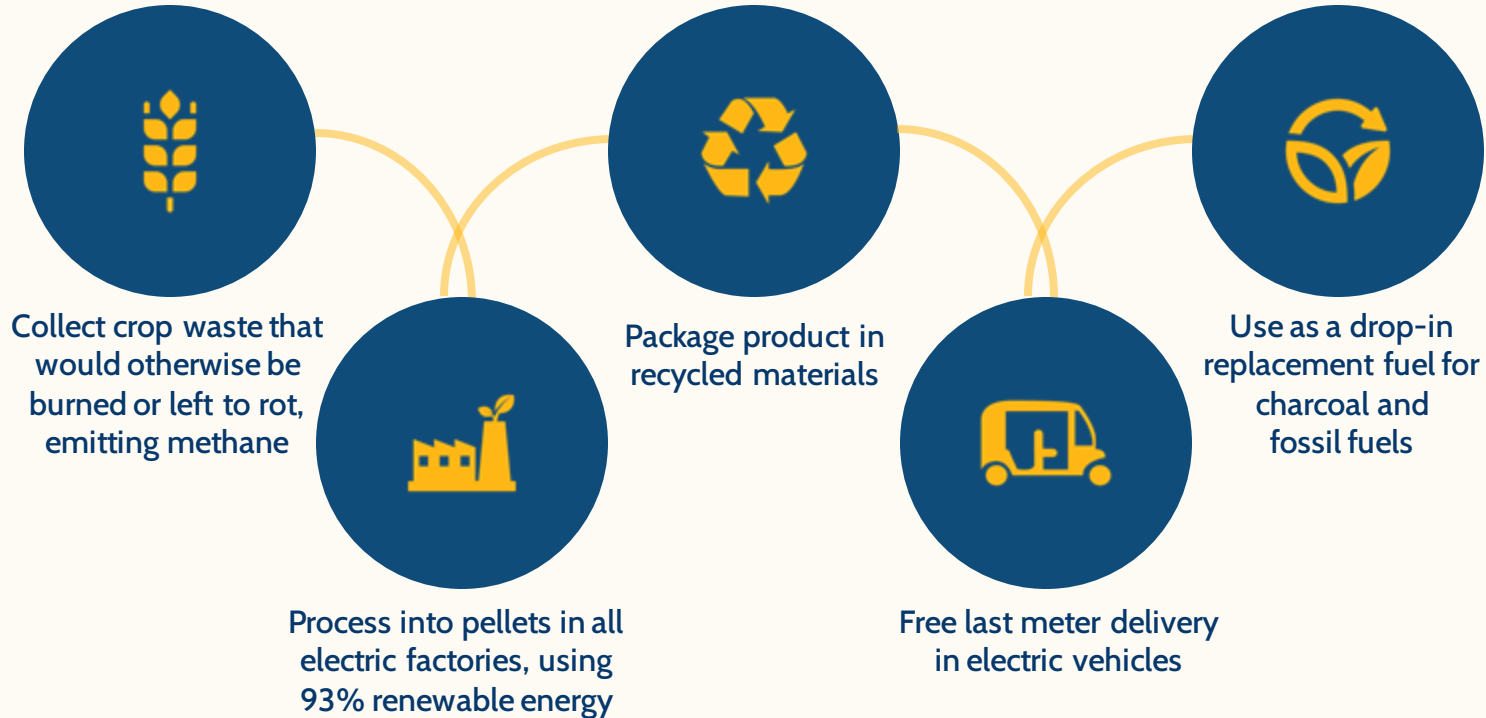
Step 2: Sell subscriptions to pellet fuel made from crop waste. These pellets are 40% cheaper than next-cheapest option, charcoal.



Step 3: Build a convenient, fully digital supply chain customers love, to manage distro, sales, and use. This also enables fully automated generation of verified CO2 credits.

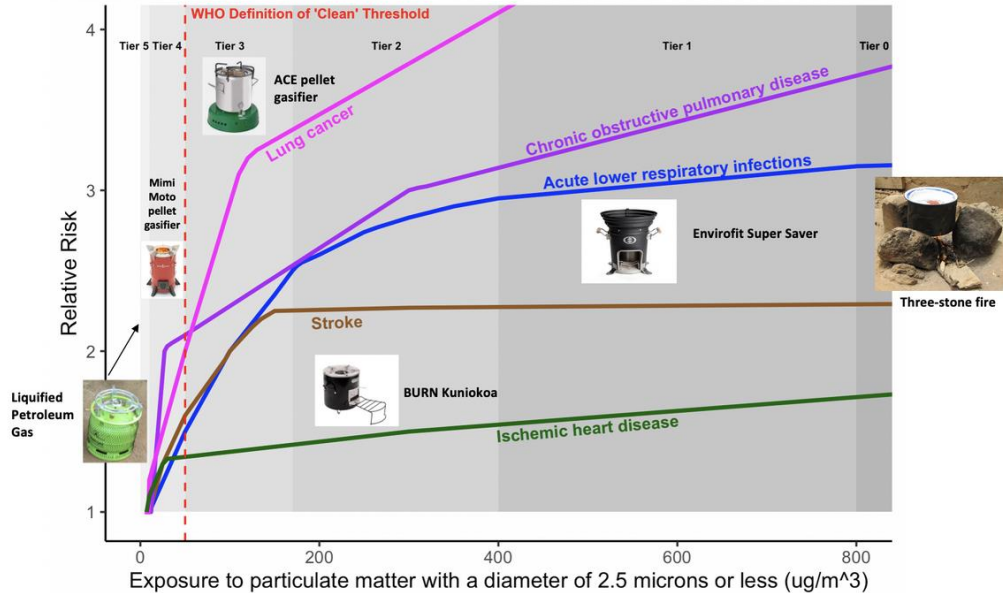
We are end-to-end sustainable

Our product, supply chain, and service are built clean



Improved, or clean?

Unpacking what “clean” cooking means, and how to pay for it



Note: This graph was roughly recreated from Figure 1 [Burnett et al. 2014](#), [zooming in on relative risk 1-4 for each disease as well as WHO's \[Setting national voluntary performance targets for cookstoves\]\(#\)](#).

This graph shows the relationship between exposure to stove smoke (specifically particulate matter 2.5) and health risk for different diseases. A relative risk of 1 means no additional health risk. Stoves that meet Tier 1-3 do relatively little to improve user health.

Maybe with carbon? But the Voluntary Carbon Market is in crisis. It all comes down to quality and provability.

Revealed: top carbon offset projects may not cut planet-heating emissions



Teles Pires dam in Brazil. Experts say large renewable energy projects like dam
Composite: Reuters

Majority of offset projects that have sold the most carbon credits are 'likely junk', according to analysis by Corporate Accountants and the Guardian

'Worthless': Chevron's carbon offsets are mostly junk and some may harm, research says

Exclusive: investigation finds energy giant's efforts to offset its huge emissions rely on schemes with little impact



New research finds that more than 90% of the company's carbon offsets should be classified as worthless or junk. Composite: The Guardian/Getty Images

Revealed: more than 90% of rainforest carbon offsets by biggest certifier are worthless, analysis shows

Investigation into Verra carbon standard finds most are 'phantom credits' and may worsen global heating

- **'Nowhere else to go': Alto Mayo row**
- **Greenwashing or a net zero nec offsetting**
- **Carbon offsets flawed but we are**



CEO of biggest carbon credit certifier to resign after claims offsets worthless

David Antonioli to step down from Verra, which was accused of approving millions of worthless offsets used by major companies

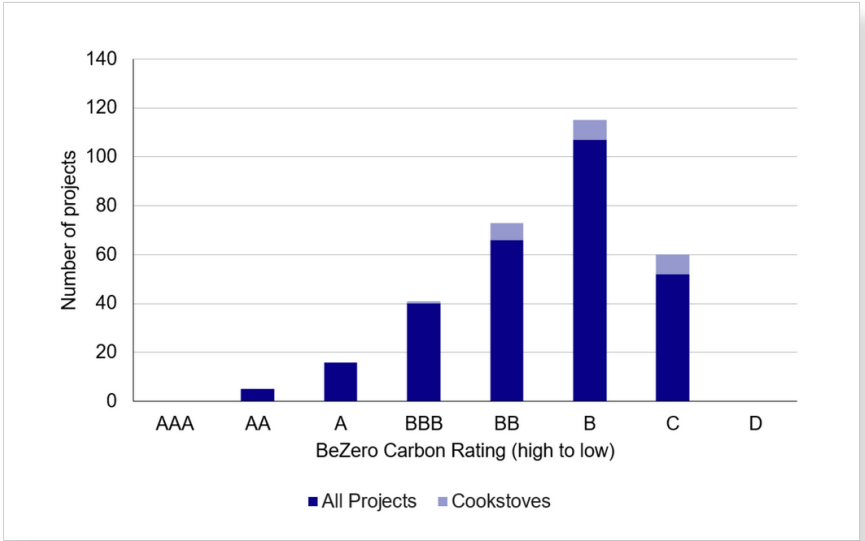
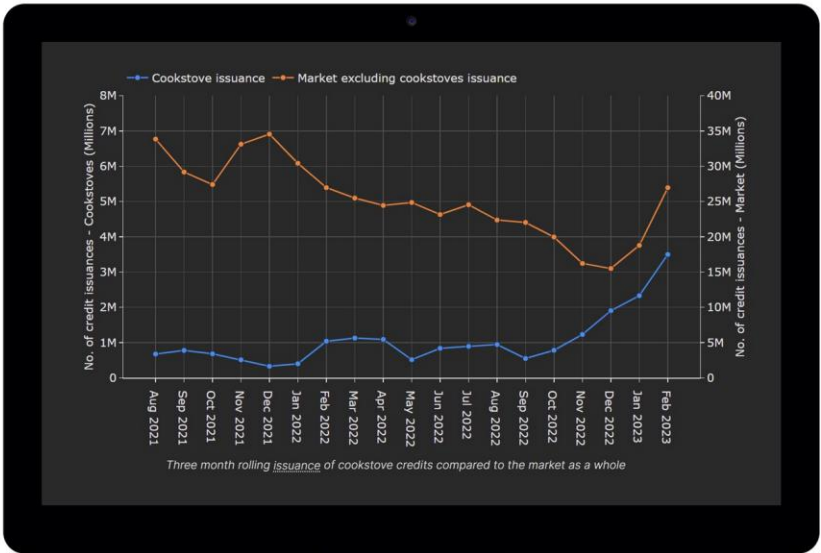


The Alto Mayo protection forest in Moyobamba, Peru, was supposed to be a flagship offsetting project but has faced human rights issues. Photograph: Angela Ponce/The Guardian

The head of the world's leading carbon credit certifier has announced he will step down as CEO next month.

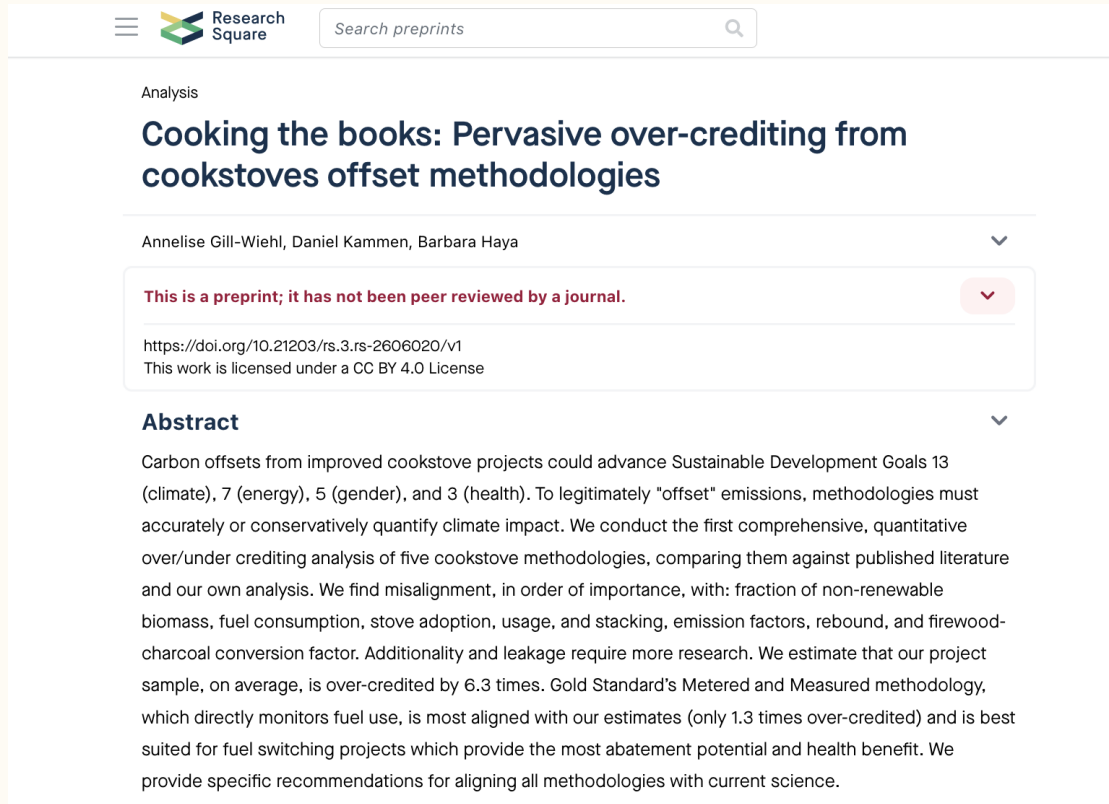
It comes amid concerns that Verra, a Washington-based nonprofit, approved tens of millions of worthless offsets that are used by major companies for climate and biodiversity commitments, according to a [joint Guardian](#)

The market for cookstove offsets is growing fast. But it's not growing well



Three month rolling issuance of cookstove credits compared to the Voluntary Carbon Market as a whole, as of 21/03/2023, available on the BeZero Carbon Markets platform.

UC Berkeley study reveals: Up to 86% of clean cooking offsets may not be real



The image shows a screenshot of a Research Square preprint page. At the top left is the Research Square logo, and to its right is a search bar with the text "Search preprints" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, the word "Analysis" is displayed. The main title of the preprint is "Cooking the books: Pervasive over-crediting from cookstoves offset methodologies". Below the title, the authors are listed as "Annelise Gill-Wiehl, Daniel Kammen, Barbara Haya". A red warning box contains the text "This is a preprint; it has not been peer reviewed by a journal." Below this, the DOI link "https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2606020/v1" and the license information "This work is licensed under a CC BY 4.0 License" are provided. The "Abstract" section is expanded, showing a detailed paragraph of text.

Research Square

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Analysis

Cooking the books: Pervasive over-crediting from cookstoves offset methodologies

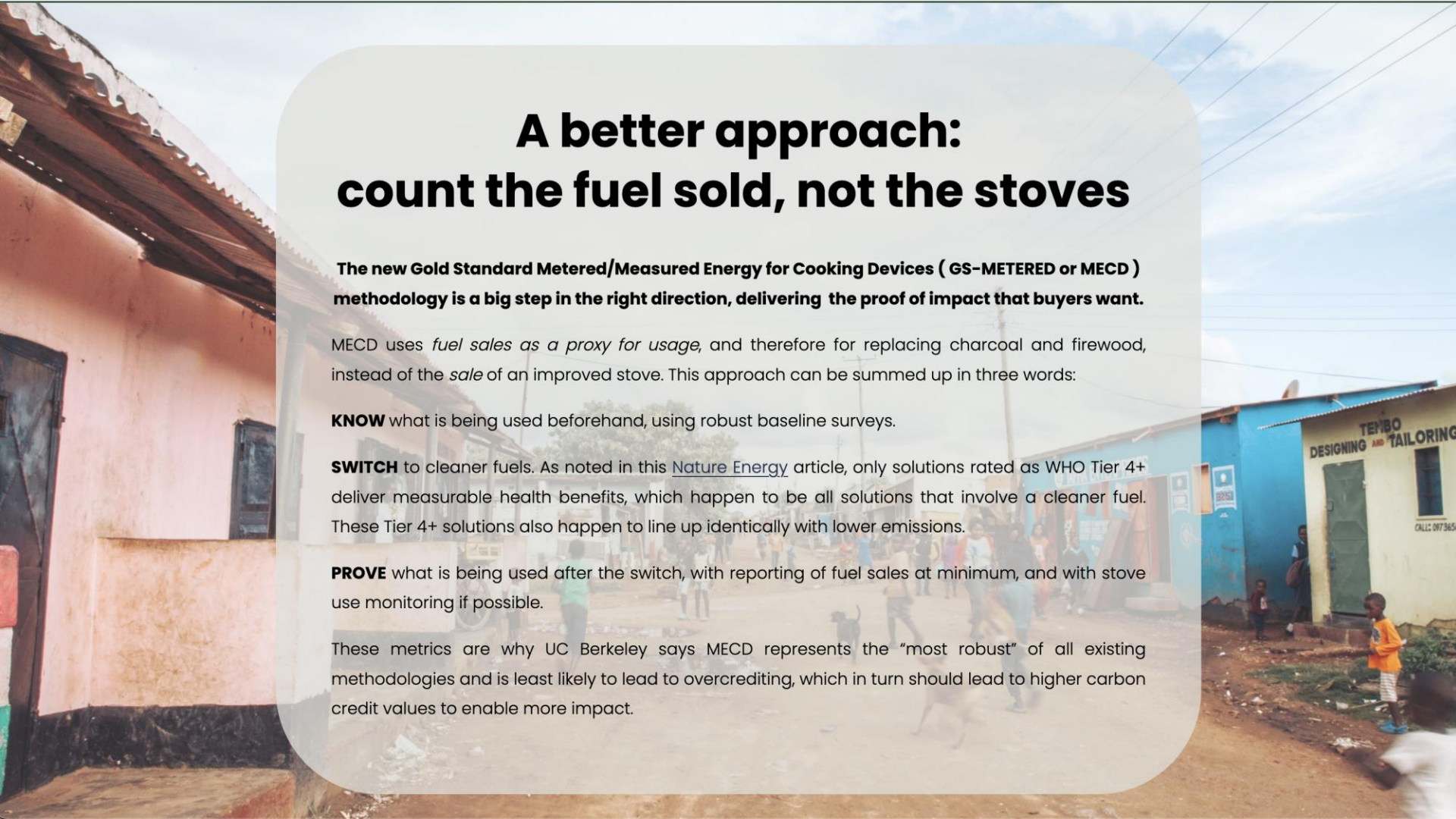
Annelise Gill-Wiehl, Daniel Kammen, Barbara Haya

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Abstract

Carbon offsets from improved cookstove projects could advance Sustainable Development Goals 13 (climate), 7 (energy), 5 (gender), and 3 (health). To legitimately "offset" emissions, methodologies must accurately or conservatively quantify climate impact. We conduct the first comprehensive, quantitative over/under crediting analysis of five cookstove methodologies, comparing them against published literature and our own analysis. We find misalignment, in order of importance, with: fraction of non-renewable biomass, fuel consumption, stove adoption, usage, and stacking, emission factors, rebound, and firewood-charcoal conversion factor. Additionality and leakage require more research. We estimate that our project sample, on average, is over-credited by 6.3 times. Gold Standard's Metered and Measured methodology, which directly monitors fuel use, is most aligned with our estimates (only 1.3 times over-credited) and is best suited for fuel switching projects which provide the most abatement potential and health benefit. We provide specific recommendations for aligning all methodologies with current science.



A better approach: count the fuel sold, not the stoves

The new Gold Standard Metered/Measured Energy for Cooking Devices (GS-METERED or MECD) methodology is a big step in the right direction, delivering the proof of impact that buyers want.

MECD uses *fuel sales as a proxy for usage*, and therefore for replacing charcoal and firewood, instead of the *sale* of an improved stove. This approach can be summed up in three words:

KNOW what is being used beforehand, using robust baseline surveys.

SWITCH to cleaner fuels. As noted in this [Nature Energy](#) article, only solutions rated as WHO Tier 4+ deliver measurable health benefits, which happen to be all solutions that involve a cleaner fuel. These Tier 4+ solutions also happen to line up identically with lower emissions.

PROVE what is being used after the switch, with reporting of fuel sales at minimum, and with stove use monitoring if possible.

These metrics are why UC Berkeley says MECD represents the “most robust” of all existing methodologies and is least likely to lead to overcrediting, which in turn should lead to higher carbon credit values to enable more impact.

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