

November 4, 2019

Hi Norbert, thought this might be interesting for MHA News.:

Some stove builders I know in Argentina initiated a program with Argentina's government and the local government of El Bolson, a town in Patagonia where I lived for 4 years, to train stove builders and build 30 rocket stoves for families living in precarious situations in parts of town with no gas for heat. This album shows the first build, and the page of Hacono Energia has other posts as well.

The surge of rocket stoves in Argentina is really incredible. In a country that had virtually zero culture of efficient wood burning the rocket stove has spread, well, like wildfire. Max Edleson gave a workshop in 2009 that sparked lots of interest, and then I gave several workshops between 2011-2016 using both traditional j-tube designs and later russian bell designs based on Alex Chernov's "russian rocket".

Hundreds and hundreds of rocket stoves of all shapes, sizes, and design have been built all over the country in recent years. The government sponsored program in El Bolson is an amazing example of real good being done by promoting masonry heaters. It is so different from the North American case because it is happening in dramatic fashion from the bottom up (poorer people are the early adopters.) Air quality and deforestation are of major concern in the mountain towns of Patagonia because wood burning (of mostly green wood) in primitive woodstoves is very common, and the population there is spreading into "occupations" of forested areas where there are no public services.

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