

Environment Conservation & Clean Energy Initiatives under OIL's CSR

OIL has taken up various projects towards conservation of the environment and promotion of clean energy in its operational areas under Corporate Social Responsibility.

CSR Initiatives to promote Clean Energy

1. **OIL Urja:** Started in 2016-17 fiscal, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati and North East Agency Pvt. Ltd. (Guwahati); keeping in view the need to create a safer environment for the people at large, the project was aimed at reducing carbon emissions through the use of renewable energy with emphasis on providing sustainable Solar Solutions. Under this project few activities as below were taken up:

a. Distribution of Fuel Efficient Chulha (Cook stoves) with Chimneys:

Under Project OIL Urja, OIL has provided Fuel Efficient Chulha (Cook stoves) in 6 Tea Gardens villages of its operational areas namely Baghjan, Dighaltarang, Thanai, Balijana, Nalini, and Mukalbari of Dibrugarh & Tinsukia Districts of Assam targeting 3000 households in a span of 1 year (12 months) and impacting total 15362 nos. beneficiaries.

Most of the household of tea garden workers use conventional cooking system of firewood on a daily basis and use of these traditional cooking practice creates indoor air pollution thus causing health problems for the women and their family members. Indoor air pollution causes many diseases like otitis, asthma, low birth weight, tuberculosis, cataract etc. Therefore, to address these issues the fuel efficient Chulha along with chimney are provided with the objective of reducing indoor air pollution thereby reducing health hazards & drudgery of women. This will also reduce use of firewood wood & other biomass and thereby reducing deforestation.

Some immediate outcomes that can be seen after implementation of project is reduction of indoor kitchen smoke & cooking time, use of lesser fuel wood and also it has been safe & easy method of cooking. Beneficiaries are highly satisfied with these customized Chulha & chimney units and consider it to be a special asset.

b. Solar Solutions in Un-Electrified Village:

Under Project OIL Urja, OIL has implemented another project focusing on Solar Lighting Solution & Clean Cooking in alignment with the MNRE (Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Govt. Of India) under Happy Home Package.

Till date 286 nos. households of un-electrified Mirigaon village in Dibrugarh District were provided with the solar happy home solutions.

The Solar Happy Home Package includes following components:

- (i)** Solar home systems which are an affordable solution for multi-energy needs of rural households. These systems can power multiple LED lights, mobile recharging, and other small home appliances through a Battery of 12 v, 60 AH that can be recharged using solar photovoltaic panels of 75 Wp each. 2 LED Bulb of 5W each is also included.
- (ii)** Solar energy lanterns: Light-emitting diode (LED) based portable lamps, which are powered by rechargeable (by small solar panel) battery are ideal multipurpose solutions for rural households. These lights can be used for in

house lighting as well as portable outdoor lights. These lights also recharge mobile phones.

- (iii) Improved biomass cook stoves.

c. Solar Solution in Anti-poaching camps in Dibru Saikhowa National Park (Tinsukia District):

In FY 2018-19, under Project OIL Urja, OIL has launched a project focusing on Solar Lighting Solution & Clean Cooking in alignment with the MNRE (Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Govt. Of India) under Happy Home Package. Till date, 68 nos. of Solar units were provided across many Anti-Poaching Camps in Forest areas of Dibru Saikhowa National Park, Tinsukia District.

2. Smokeless Village Campaign

a. Smokeless Village Campaign in Arunachal Pradesh: During FY 2015-16, Oil India Limited distributed free of cost LPG connections (burner, regular & gas cylinder, etc) to 131 households through rural distributorship of IOCL at Innao village under Diyun Circle, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh. The other 4 (four) villages which will be converted to Smokeless Villages from the offices of Pipe Line Head Quarters and Rajasthan Project, OIL are Tetulguri village and Amdanga village near Kaziranga National Park, Nagaon District, Assam; Beldanga village near Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Madarihat, Alipurduar, West Bengal and Tanot village in Thar Desert, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Under the program, OIL carried out Mass Awareness Campaign to educate and encourage villages to stop use of Biomass and encourage use of LPG which is cleaner fuel of energy and provide guidance on use and Handling of LPG Kit (Burner, Regulator & Gas Cylinder etc)

b. Smokeless Village Campaign in Assam: In FY 2016-17, OIL distributed free LPG Connection to two villages near Pump Station 4 Sekoni, Amdanga and Tetulguri, near Jakhalabandha town, under Kaliabor Division in Nagaon District, Assam. Total 54 nos. of households in Amdanga village and 63 nos. of households in Tetulguri village, making it a total of 117 households were distributed free LPG connection. This noble initiative of OIL, aims to reduce indoor smoke and the drudgery of the homemakers while catering to the needs of their families.

Initiatives towards Biodiversity Conservation:

OIL has provided financial assistance for the conservation of the wildlife through its various initiatives:

1. **Conservation of Hollock Gibbon:** OIL in the FY 2013-14 undertook a project on the conservation of the critically endangered Hollock Gibbon. This species of the ape family is scanty found in the remaining rainforests of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh; the only ape species found in the last remaining rainforests of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. OIL entrusted green group Nature's Beckon with the project on creating awareness on protecting the ape's habitats through workshops, distribution of information booklets and use of mass media about the animal's ecological utility in schools and villages of Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Golaghat and Jorhat districts.
2. **Adoption of Rhino Calves:** In the devastating floods of 2016 in Assam, Kaziranga National Park was severely affected and a lot of wild animals have lost their lives, while quite a few were rescued by local people, NGOs and Forest officials. In FY 2016-17, Oil India Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives adopted three orphaned Rhino calves

which were looked after by Wild Life Trust of India (WTI)'s, Centre for Wild Life Rehabilitation and Conservation located near Kaziranga in Panbari Borguri, Bokakhat, under Golaghat District in Assam. On 21st January 2019, one Rhino was translocated and thereafter on 10th February 2019 the two remaining Rhinos were translocated from Centre for Wild Life Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC), Panbari Borguri, Bokakhat, District Golaghat, Assam to Manas National Park, Narshingbari, Assam. Upon translocation, these One-Horned Rhinos will be shifted to an acclimatization site where they will spend the next one year developing site fidelity before being released in the National Park. Oil India Ltd under its CSR initiative took up this noble cause by being first the PSU to fully support hand raising & rehabilitation of these orphaned Rhinos.

3. **Research study on the present status of White Winged Duck:** OIL in the FY 2019-20 has extended financial assistance for carrying out a research study on the present stats of White Winged Duck *Asarcornis Scutulata*, the state bird of Assam in Digboi and its surrounding areas. The project will be carried out by the Environmental Research Cell, Digboi College. The White Winged Duck (*Asarcornis Scutulata*), due to various threats to their survival, has become one of the rarest duck species in the world. In India, this bird is found only in the states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh but currently, their population is undergoing a rapid and drastic decline due to deforestation and hunting by people depending on the forests for their livelihood. In the state of Assam, the forest areas of Tinsukia district has been the natural nesting ground of this endangered species. However, due to lack of research, their present population and distribution is still unknown. The objectives of this research project is therefore to determine their population in Digboi and the surrounding areas, identification of threats associated with their survival and introducing conservative measures for their long term survival.
4. **Support to Assam state Zoo:** Oil India Ltd has taken an initiative to provide financial assistance to Assam state Zoo for meeting the cost of the construction of the Quarantine House and Fabrication of squeeze and transportation cages for secured animals and birds. Established in 1957, the Assam State Zoo cum botanical garden has a collection of over 2000 no. of animals, birds and reptiles belonging to over 100 species, both indigenous and exotic. The Zoo at that point did not have a Quarantine House facility and therefore the rescued animals are temporarily kept in uncomfortable enclosures. Also, since there were no animal rescue and rehabilitation centre in and around the Guwahati city, so the Assam state Zoo is entrusted for rescuing of animals in distress and rehabilitate after providing necessary care and veterinary treatment. In view of this situation at Assam State Zoo, OIL felt prudent to take up this initiative under CSR.

Other Allied Initiatives

The other allied initiatives taken under Environment Protection by OIL in its operational areas are as follows:

1. **Sasoni Merbeel Eco Tourism Project:** Sasoni Merbeel Eco Tourism Development Committee is a Society formed by the local stakeholders surrounding Merbeel near Sasoni in Dibrugarh District. The Committee is working tirelessly to redevelop the Merbeel (wetland) and create a sustainable tourism development programme around it. The project is getting unflinching support from Oil India Limited and considering the importance the project has towards the local community, District Administration Dibrugarh is providing its resources. OIL has provided financial assistance for solar lighting, pedal boats and battery driver eco-friendly vehicles.

2. Contribution Towards Pradhan Mantri's Ujjawala Yojna (PMUY): Free LPG Connection to BPL Households OIL has contributed Rs. 11.23 crore in FY 2018-19 towards PMUY which aims to safeguard the health of women and children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel.

3. Mass Tree Plantation Drive in Dibrugarh On the occasion of World Environment Day 2018, Oil India Ltd has provided financial assistance towards organizing a Mass Sapling plantation drive in Dibrugarh under which 10 lakh tree saplings were planted. Dibrugarh District Administration organized the said programme in collaboration with various PSUs, Army, CRPF, various Govt departments, NGOs and the public of Dibrugarh District. Additional 2.1 lakh saplings were also planted in Dibrugarh district.