

blueEnergy's monthly  
newsletter

New website offers  
improved online  
experience

Oxfam and MIT  
stop by to say hi

blueEnergy vets  
visit for one week

Diagnostic results  
and personal solar  
systems to Set Net

James Richards,  
HR Guy.

San Francisco  
office doubles

BUN-CA, how  
efficient!



## Set Net Point: Let There Be Light!

By Clement Joulain, Jonothan O'Toole, Maïté Niel — Set Net Point is the newest recipient of blueEnergy's LED installation program. Previously, the residents were relying on gas-powered generators for about two hours per night, an expensive, noisy and dirty solution.

As part one of a two-part installation, blueEnergy installed ten bE LED systems (consisting of two LED bulbs and a 5W fluorescent bulb powered with a 14W solar panel) and six Technosol systems (two LED powered by a 5W solar panel) in the tiny fishing community. Two of the systems were installed on a small island just off the beach where they help to light a small fish storage facility.

Also installed was an additional 150W of solar which gives a total of 246W to power two classrooms and a 35W fluorescent night beacon for fisherman to use as a guide when paddling home in the evenings. These installations replaced the wind turbine that has since been removed. The turbine was no longer operational due to technical issues. The additional solar panels will be much easier to maintain, requiring only a monthly cleaning.

At one point, one of the residents leaned over to a blueEnergy technician and thanked him for the tiny amount of light that made such a big difference.

Also on the agenda was presenting the results of the community diagnostic. Along with Maïté Niel and Cindy Bennett from blueEnergy, a representative from the mayor's office in Pearl Lagoon was present to "officialize" the results.

About 15 community members were present. Taking advantage of the forum, the community discussed their development needs, including water tanks for the neighborhoods, a health center

and a community generator. It was explained that a generator would be cost prohibitive and require much organization on the



Cindy receiving a microcredit payment from Linda Hodgson

community's part. Expanding the solar capacity was welcomed and one community member said in regards to the light projects, "blueEnergy is doing good."

The energy commission who maintains and manages the installation in the community also took the opportunity to elect a new president.

Part two of the Set Net Point project will be to increase the capacity of the school system and to provide light for the three churches. The funds will come from the sale of the 16 systems from the first part of the project (most paid with microcredit financing through ADEPHCA) and will probably take place near the end of October.



Community members with signed agreements for ADEPHCA microcredit loans



## Back to Bluefields!

By Arnaud Clappier — It had been almost two years since Anne-Claire and Arnaud left Nicaragua after volunteering for one year. Anne-Claire now works for a consulting firm about renewables in buildings, and Arnaud works for a large windpower utility.

On the side, they're still involved in blueEnergy: as blueEnergy France director, Anne-Claire supervises the actions in France (fundraising, sensibilization) and coordinates with Nicaragua and San Francisco. Arnaud is blueEnergy France treasurer and participates in the volunteer recruitment process in France.

They've been visiting Bluefields for one week to see all the changes and follow up

the work of the French volunteers. They were very impressed by the improvements in all areas: in the workshop (improvement of the turbine design, measure materials, water filters, technical level of technicians and volunteers etc.), the administrative organization and the work with the communities. They were able to see the results of all this work in Monkey Point.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.blueenergygroup.org/>. The page features the blueEnergy logo and a navigation menu with items like Home, About us, What we do, Get involved, Media, and More. The main content area displays the article 'blueEnergy Sports New Website' by Matthieu Poulet. The article text is partially obscured by a large, semi-transparent watermark that reads 'blueEnergy would not exist without the support of our friends and volunteers'. The article discusses the website's new design and multilingual capabilities. To the right of the article, there are social media icons and a 'Quick facts' section. At the bottom of the screenshot, a small map of Nicaragua is visible.

## blueEnergy Sports New Website

By Matthieu Poulet — As you may have noticed (if you have a better Internet connection than in Bluefields), [www.blueenergygroup.org](http://www.blueenergygroup.org) has changed a bit.

You can now find updated information in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

Whether you are looking for in-depth information about our governance or if you just want to quickly browse the home page and look at some photos, the new look and organization of the website is meant to be clearer and will give you the information you look for more quickly.

We made sure that subscribing to our newsletter, applying for positions and making donations are as easy, fast and secure as possible. Do not hesitate to write to us using the contact form, as this

site will become our main point of contact to you.

It took us more than one year to merge the two former websites and come up with this new unique website.

Technically, we designed it to be easily edited by non-technical people, thanks to a technology called **spip**, an open-source Content Management System. It then took us more than six months to re-think the content of the website and put it in line with the latest changes of the organization.

In parallel, a team of pro-bono translators worked to bring the information available in the three languages spoken at blueEnergy.

Thank you to all the friends of blueEnergy who contributed to the success of this transformation. We hope you will like the new face of our website. If so, spread the word, and invite your friends to discover our action on [www.blueenergygroup.org](http://www.blueenergygroup.org)!

## Energy Efficiency a Hot Topic

For two days blueEnergy was proud to host energy efficiency experts BUN-CA for a workshop called Taller de Induccion en Eficiencia Energetica en Nicaragua.

BUN-CA is an organization whose purpose is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency through hands-on education and to develop political support for energy conservation efforts. Since their founding in 1991, BUN-CA has worked with countless busi-

nesses and organizations to reduce carbon emissions of over 791 tones.

Divided into two parts, day one was geared to a group of 40 hotel, shop and business owners, as well as representatives from Bluefields, Oasis Casino, HURACAN and the local Ministry of Education.

The Nicaraguan BUN-CA Director Juan Maria and technician Felix Rodriguez gave their presentations over what energy efficiency is, its importance and how to make a real difference in domestic consumption. The attendees received a tour of the blueEnergy workshop and learned how bE projects make a positive environmental impact.

The second part took all of day two and was for blueEnergy staff. The Oasis Hotel/Casino volunteered their business for an energy efficiency audit. Under BUN-CA's watchful eye, the bE staff learned how to measure and extrapolate energy consumption data from different appliances and devices. When they returned, all the data was put into a chart to determine the possible cost/energy savings. A report is to be given to the Oasis describing how corrective measures could be beneficial. Having completed the training, blueEnergy staff will now be able to measure and analyze community consumption and can offer energy-saving suggestions.

## MIT, Oxfam Visit Bluefields, Learn About blueEnergy

On Wednesday, August 26, blueEnergy was pleased to host Rebecca Buell from MIT's program of economic development through renewable energy, Green Hub. Also in attendance was Rafel Henriquez from Oxfam. The visitors were brought up to speed on nearly every aspect of blueEnergy's work by the heads of all departments: Ismael presented CERCA, Vida Luz presented the community work, Marie presented the teaching and training programs, Guilhem talked about the water project, Jono spoke of the renewable energy components and Nico discussed the LED light installations and productive uses.



MIT/Green Hub and Oxfam learn how the turbines work

Also giving presentations were representatives from the City of Bluefields who spoke of the city itself and their wishes on the future of waste management.

The visitors said they were impressed with blueEnergy's work. They discussed the possibilities of partnering to have graduate students from the Green Hub program work with blueEnergy both in the field and in the classroom. Back in Boston some will be working to develop solutions blueEnergy can use moving forward. Better economic practices, improved tariff structures and financial models for future installs will all be on their plate.

blueEnergy was born from a similar program at MIT attended by co-founder and CEO, Mathias Craig. Currently one of our former volunteers, Ben Hyman, is studying with Green Hub at MIT.

## Expansion in SF

blueEnergy expanded its San Francisco office, which houses both blueEnergy International and blueEnergy US, at the end of July. The new office is located in the same facility as before and blueEnergy's office address remains unchanged at 1360 Mission St., Suite 200, San Francisco, CA, 94103, USA. The new space, which is about double the size of the previous office, provides much-needed breathing room and has allowed blueEnergy to increase the size of its administration team.

As part of this expansion, blueEnergy has been joined by M.K Pang (a.k.a Man), a volunteer working three days a week in the accounting department. Man graduated in accounting from San Francisco State and was anxious to get into a work position where he could rapidly gain real-life experience. His hard work and attention to detail over the past couple of months has provided a strong boost to blueEnergy's administrative capacity.

## HR Volunteer Hires Himself

James Richards joined bE in August and has taken on the role of being the Nicaragua front man for Development and HR. James is charged with the task of ensuring that there is a fresh pool of talented volunteers constantly headed towards Nicaragua and is excited by the opportunity to hone blueEnergy's HR structure and help develop new revenue streams.

James took the long route to Bluefields, leaving the States with a friend in December of 2008 and zigzagging his way to Nicaragua. Before heading our way, James has had a variety of diverse work and travel experience and has explored just about every country in South America and Southeast Asia. When not on the road he has found himself raising money for political candidates, working for an International NGO in Washington, DC and most recently was working for Barack Obama's Presidential Campaign.

James recently picked up spearfishing and hopes to catch his own dinner a few times before leaving the Atlantic Coast. And in addition to fishing, James enjoys just about any sport or competition you can throw his way.