

IMPROVED COOK STOVES PROJECT: ECOCOMAL AND ECOPAN

Field Update Report

Elaborated by Microsol – Dec 2019

Ecocomal and Ecopan are part of the large-scale Utsil Naj Program, which was designed as a multi-technology activity program in Latin America. Its objective is to disseminate technologies with strong social impacts to the poor populations of the continent in order to improve their living conditions in a sustainable way. The target populations are the rural beneficiaries, who are often part of the most vulnerable communities.

In 2016, Ecocomal and Ecopan's projects located in Guatemala and Honduras respectively, achieved the certification of 4,716 improved cookstoves¹ ("Ecocina" and "Ecoplancha" models) that generated² a total of 36,961 tons of CO₂ eq.

As part of the project's renovation in 2019, the lists of users are being updated to show the current status of the project, the condition of the stoves and whether the users are still the same or not. Based on a sample³, the following information was found:

Table 1. % of users who do not currently use their ICS

	Ecocomal	Ecopan
% still using the ICS	68%	31%
% not using the ICS	32%	69%

32% (Ecocomal) and 69% (Ecopan) of users surveyed do not use their ICS for the following reasons:

Table 2. Reasons why users stopped using their ICS - Ecocomal

	Ecocomal
Total/partial damage of the stove	66.5%
Moving	10.0%
Loss	8.8%
Drop	8.2%
Other	6.5%

¹ 3,250 stoves (Ecocomal) and 1,466 stoves (Ecopan)

² 30,313 tons CO₂ eq (Ecocomal) and 6,648 tons CO₂ eq (Ecopan)

³ 1,009 users surveyed for Ecocomal project (only the "Ecocina" model) and 594 users for Ecopan project ("Ecocina" model). The completion of the list update campaign is planned for Q1 2020 for both projects.

Table 3. Reason why users stopped using their ICS – Ecopan

	Ecopan
Total/partial damage of the stove	79.3%
Moving	10.2%
Drop	3.7%
Other	6.8%

Ecocomal presents more than 65% of users who indicated that the reason they stopped using their ICS was due to total/partial damage of the stove. A similar situation occurs for Ecopan, where more than 75% of the users indicated the same reason.

The main typical problems the stoves present today in both projects are due that the spare parts are partial or total damaged or they have never been repaired or replaced since its implementation. Refer to table 3 and 4 for more information.

Table 3. Typical problems of the stove - Ecocomal

	%
Damaged comal	68%
Damaged trebe	19%
Damaged combustion chamber	5%
Damaged structure	3%
None	3%
Other	2%

Table 4. Typical problems of the stove – Ecopan

	%
Damaged comal	31%
Broken portaleñas	30%
Damaged combustion chamber	6%
None	26%
Other	6%

The most common pieces of this model that present problems are the comal, trebe and portaleñas. It is recommended to implement continuous follow-up visits to provide maintenance (whether it be, repairing or replacement) in order to ensure the efficiency of the technology and the sustainability of the projects over time.