

Today was a breakthrough! Since 2002, GreenMicrofinance has been participating and leading panels on microfinance and the environment at various Microcredit Summit gatherings- Bangladesh 2004; Chile 2005, Halifax 2006, and today in Bali.

During today's session on ***Microfinance, Their Clients, and Clean Energy: Making a Positive Impact on the Environment*** there was a definite shift in interest and 'energy' around the topic. THE LIGHTS ARE ON!



Craig Wilson from [The Foundation for Development Cooperation](#) based in Australia and my colleague, Kathleen Robbins from [GreenMicrofinance](#), provided a macro overview of moving forward with clean energy and the microfinance.

We then shifted to the local perspective. Paul Thomas, Founder and Executive Director, [Evangelical Social Action Forum \(ESAF\)](#), India, and Chitta Ranjan Chaki, Deputy General Manager, [Grameen Shakti](#), Bangladesh, both provided very comprehensive overviews of their clean energy initiatives.

ESAF in partnership with GreenMicrofinance is developing a clean energy lending program; they recently completed a market survey of 1,200 clients in four States in which they work. A couple of highlights from the survey include:

- Majority of these people use firewood for cooking purposes; even if they do have LPG connections they prefer to use firewood stoves (*comparatively cheaper source*)
- Waste generated in each household could be processed to produce renewable clean energy.

