OECD LEED Project on Measuring the Potential of Green Growth. Indicators of Local Transition to a Low Carbon Economy.

CHILE PROJECT
Indicators of Local Transition to a Low Carbon Economy in the framework of Production and Consumption of Firewood

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Air pollution from residential firewood combustion

Source: CONAMA, 2008
CONTEXT

• The projections of economic growth in Chile for next years (above 4% in 2012) involve a high energy demand, raising the need for an adequate and efficient energy supply, both in the context of sustainable development and economic growth.

• In this context, production and consumption of firewood acquire special meaning in Chile as an important energy source in rural and residential areas of several regions from the center to the south: from Region VI O´Higgins, Region VII Maule, Region VIII Biobío, Region IX Araucanía, Region X Los Lagos to Region XI Aysén.

• According to estimates, firewood accounts for approx. 20% of the country´s energy supply.
FIREWOOD USE AND ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS

• In recent years, problems associated with the production and consumption of firewood become more evident, both in the environmental area (air pollution, forest sustainability) and public health (primarily pollution within the households).

• The main use of firewood is for heating, followed by its use for cooking. To reduce the negative effects associated with the production and consumption of firewood, significant efforts have been made lately, which are being measured through indicators for the local level.
MEASURES and INDICATORS

• Measurable advances through indicators for the local development are manifested primarily in:

  ➢ Improvements in air quality.
  
  ➢ Implementation of new cleaner technology (market share cleaner heating equipments and change out of existing stoves).
  
  ➢ Growth of entrepreneurs engaged in the sale of dry firewood.
  
  ➢ Creation of “green jobs” associated with dry firewood production and heating technology.
  
  ➢ Consumer information mechanism and effects of behavior.
THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CHILEAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

- The Ministry of Environment of Chile is committed strongly to the aforementioned aspects and is working to contribute to an adequate and efficient energy supply in the context of a model of sustainable consumption and production.

- The project will investigate the opportunities that sustainable production and consumption of firewood can bring to the regions in the framework of the transition towards green growth. A set of indicators to monitor the local transition will be developed.
Gracias.