



Green Gown
Awards 2016



Dissemination
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Finalist's case study

The University of Nottingham Student Sustainability Champion Andy Stride FRSA



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

About:

Summary

Andy has been creating and developing social enterprises both locally and globally that are tackling the UN sustainable development goals. He is committed to driving social change and has been awarded a Fellowship by the Royal Society of Arts, Manufacturing and Commerce, while also developing a platform for other students to get involved with sustainable enterprises.

Project partners

Andy is heavily committed in Enactus Nottingham and also works with the RSA. Through these organisations Andy is able to utilise resources and knowledge to create and implement new social enterprises.

The results

The problem

One of the issues that Andy is committed to tackling is the Sustainable Development Goal #6 – Clean Water and Sanitation. His social enterprise has researched into the devastating effects of unclean water, of which 633 million people are forced to drink. This causes children to miss school, adults to miss work and communities to suffer from water borne illnesses.

The approach

Andy developed a low cost biosand filter that could be used in remote locations, currently Cameroon. Through leading a team of 12 students, he was able to develop, build and install these filters across several communities providing clean, safe and affordable water.

Our goals

AQUOR's main goal is to provide clean water and sanitation to everyone within Cameroon, whether in remote rural village or built up towns. This aims to be done through selling filters to institutions, governments and households.



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Obstacles and solutions

- Complicated technology	- Worked in laboratories at the university to research and prototype the filter.
- Lack of awareness that dirty water is unsafe	- Conducted training, workshops and seminars on the importance of clean water. Carried out a heavy marketing campaign to spread awareness within the communities
- Working remotely	- Employed a local individual as a manager on the ground to run the day to day operations of the social enterprise.
- Providing clean water to the whole community	- Partnered with the government water authority and used our filters in partnership with their pipeline infrastructure

Performance and results

Through this one social enterprise, Andy and the AQUOR team has provided over 35,000 with clean, safe and affordable water. Due to the remote location, the communities AQUOR has worked in have never had clean water and always suffered from water-borne illnesses. The filters have completely eradicated cholera, dysentery and typhoid from the communities reducing deaths from 248 in 2014 to 0 in 2016 from water related illnesses.

The future

Lessons learned

Andy has learned a lot through this social enterprise and the experiences that it has involved. Conducting extensive and thorough needs assessments proved crucial and carrying out continuous impact measurement was essential. The more data that a team has, the more they can evaluate failures and successes and continue to innovate and adapt based on accurate data.

Andy has also learned that having a great team is also essential, where roles are well defined and individuals are all passionate about the work that they are doing. While creating and developing AQUOR there was a need to work an unreasonable amount of hours at all times of day and night, and therefore having a passionate and dedicated team was required to ensure that progress was always made.

Sharing your project

AQUOR has been shared through many media channels including being aired on BBC after returning from Cameroon on an expedition. Andy has also been working on similar water initiatives with other organisations and groups sharing the AQUOR technology so that more impact can be delivered around the world.

What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

To have a Green Gown Finalist within the institution is very prestigious and aligns with the university's commitment to sustainability. It is especially great that it also comes from students who are studying degrees where they have many other priorities. Student lead initiatives help towards making a more sustainable future.