

Citizens in Brazil Make Decisions About Energy

Challenge

The Tocantins State, the newest of Brazil's states, came into existence fifteen years ago and is the home to thirteen planned hydropower projects under the Brazilian federal government's national energy plan. The project will affect the state economy based largely on agriculture and cattle ranching, with environmental impact on the lives of indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers living within its boundaries. Environmental consequences and economic potential must be evaluated as plans are put into place.



Photo: Ecologica Institute/Maria Tereza Rodriguez

Ricardo Cerqueira leads community multipliers training in Taquaru'u district.

“TEEP has completely changed the relationship between the community and the developers. Before, the developers did as they pleased. Now we have power in our hands.”

- Course Participant

Results

New community networks, dedicated to active and constructive participation in the hydropower project planning stages, were formed. Citizens learned about the need for energy, and the benefits and consequences of increased access to energy. They also gained knowledge and skills to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives. Through the TEEP program, civic organization and participation were fostered. Program alumni, using their new skills and the social momentum created by TEEP, actively participated in a community summit to plan the management of a new lake that was created by the Lajeado dam.

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