

Presenters, Affiliations, and Emails

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Poster Title

Community-Scale Water Treatment Systems in the Dominican Republic

Abstract

An interdisciplinary team of graduate and undergraduate students is working towards establishment of a network of community-scale water treatment systems in rural communities of the Dominican Republic. These systems are designed to provide safe water to communities, promote local entrepreneurial activity and generate income for reinvestment into system maintenance. By establishing several of these systems, the team hopes to build a support network and intend for this network to become self-sustaining and capable of establishing new systems in the Dominican Republic. Initial visits were conducted to establish local connections and evaluate the area. Household surveys were administered by community members to collect baseline data regarding local health, economics and social values. The first system was established at a local primary school (Ana Julia Blanca) in Las Canas, which is also a community gathering place, and a governance board of local leaders was established for system decision-making. Most recently, a prioritized list of communities for implementation of additional systems has been developed through extensive evaluation of feasibility and potential for success. Our upcoming trip (May 2016) will focus on building stronger relationships within the next community (La Torre), including evaluating community expectations and determining the logistics of new system construction.

Schedule of Expected Attendance

Jason Hawes, Lila Gillespie, Margaret Busse, Hayley Hartough, Alexa DeRoo, and Andrew Kanach will attend the poster session.