



The organisations involved with ACCESE make sure communities have the tools they need to make their own sustainable energy decisions.

THE STORY

Matilia Cedillo's story begins in 2004 in Guatemala, when she left her role as a primary school teacher to get a better job and, she hoped, to find her calling.

She started with Fundación Solar, working on renewable energy projects. In 2009 she began volunteering with the newly founded Semillas del Sol in Guatemala City, talking to people in Quiché, Guatemala's most populous state, about their energy needs.

Matilia lives outside Guatemala City in the town of Nebaj, which neighbours the communities she serves. This enables her to truly understand the local energy use and access needs.

Now Matilia is the vice president of the board of directors, where she works as an intermediary between the communities and external organisations, helping to develop strategies that work for everyone. In her years at Semillas del Sol, Matilia has worked with more than 50 communities in Quiché, where people are predominantly of Mayan descent.

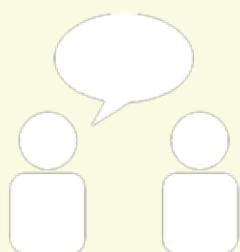
Matilia has become a trusted community figure and it appears her dream came true of finding her calling — or perhaps, it found her.

THE MODEL

Alianza Centroamericana para la Sostenibilidad Energética (ACCESE) is a network of more than 70 organisations from Central America working towards the goal of sustainable energy for all. ACCESE inspires people to advocate for a fair sustainable world and promotes the capacity of renewable energy to transform people and communities.

With the support and involvement of Hivos Central America, the network's reach is felt far and wide. International agendas can be influenced by the network's local actors, and vice versa. ACCESE keeps the lines of communication open by creating and sustaining them with intermediaries like Matilia Cedillo.

ACCESE works to ensure that local communities are ENERGY LITERATE.



ACCESE wants to UNITE THE VOICES of their stakeholders to improve the world.



ACCESE inspires people to advocate for a fair, sustainable world and promotes the incredible capacity of renewable energy to transform people and communities

THE IMPACT

Renewable energy can solve a dual challenge — the environmental harm caused by fossil fuels and the lack of energy access in rural areas. When local communities are involved in the design of renewable energy projects, they can develop solutions that fit their unique lives. This furthers both the adoption and success of renewable energy projects.

In the Quiché region, where 1 million people reside, Semillas del Sol has trained 250 people in renewable energy adoption.

Among those trained, 100 are currently working on renewable energy advocacy, as well as other projects.

This is the story of just one organization involved in the ACCESE network. Combined, the network's efforts are bringing local renewable energy solutions to millions in Central America.



ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

ACCESE brings international, national, regional, and local players into a conversation on balancing sustainable and inclusive energy. Efforts tend to focus on renewable energy, poverty, gender, indigenous populations, and technologies such as clean cookstoves, micro-hydro, and solar.

ACCESE's reach goes far and wide — from the government officials who are making the legislative decisions to the locals who are directly affected by these decisions. The result is an international platform where all voices can be heard.