



## Fossil-fuel phase-out in a coal paradise

### Biomass, Soacha, Colombia

Soacha is a fast-growing suburb in the metropolitan area of Bogotá. Young people from rural areas try their luck there; others had to leave their villages during the civil war. Countless simple mudbrick houses are being built, and brick kilns make a good living. Since coal is cheaply available in Colombia, nearly all of the region's 40 brickworks use it to fire their kilns.

Except for the Santander brickyard, that is. Its owner, Miguel Diaz, has converted his business so that it operates modern, energy-efficient kilns – and he also runs them with up to 80 percent renewable biomass. This way, the brickyard saves 18,000 tons of carbon emissions each year.

This exclusive ClimatePartner carbon offset project was the first project in Colombia to receive Gold Standard certification.

### How do biomass projects help fight global warming?

Biomass projects involve energy being created from renewable biomass, which could be coconut shells, sawdust, wood chips, the residue of sugar cane processing, bamboo or wood from sustainable sources. No trees are felled, or fossil fuels burned, so no CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted. As an additional greenhouse gas reduction measure, such projects mostly involve preventing biomass from rotting in the open air, so that no methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is released.



### Contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

#### SDG 1 · No Poverty

The project secures jobs and income for 115 people in Soacha

#### SDG 3 · Good Health and Well-Being

Less air pollution from burning coal, high health and safety standards for employees

#### SDG 7 · Affordable and Clean Energy

Efficient energy production from renewable biomass; the project is a positive example of modern biomass technology

#### SDG 12 · Responsible Consumption and Production

Use of renewable biomass and waste products instead of coal for energy production

#### SDG 13 · Climate Action

The project saves 20,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per year

#### SDG 16 · Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Long-term employment opportunities help reduce social conflicts



Project standard

Gold Standard VER (GS VER)

Technology

Biomass

Region

Soacha, Colombia

Annual volume

20,000 t CO<sub>2</sub>e

Validated by

TÜV Rheinland (China) Ltd.

Verified by

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH

Further information

[www.climatepartner.com/1070](http://www.climatepartner.com/1070)