



Engineering for the Developing World Seminar Series.

"Appropriate Technology Generation on the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation in South Dakota"

David Bartecchi
Village Earth

2.00 - 3.00 pm, Friday 25th April, 2008,
Room 2053, Materials Research Laboratory.

Abstract:

With a population of approximately 26,000 and encompassing an area of roughly 2 million acres the Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Reservation, in rural southwest South Dakota, is one of the poorest places in the USA. A great deal of agricultural production takes place, yet only a small percentage of the tribe directly benefits from this. In 2002 less than 1/3 of the 33 million dollar agricultural production income went to tribe members. The reason for this is that nearly 60% of lands allotted to Lakota families during 1887 General Allotment Act are being leased out by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to non-tribal members for an average of \$3.50 per acre, although, most people (the median) are receiving only 50 cents an acre. These rents are far below current market values. Despite the fact that their lands have been in the leasing system for several generations, over 70% of families on the reservation would like to live on and utilize their allotted lands.

The Lakota Tiyospaye Land Recovery project helps Lakota families reclaim their legally allotted lands from the BIA leasing system and access the resources and develop the technologies needed to live on, protect, and utilize it, helping to return the balance between economy, ecology, and culture. This lecture demonstrate how Appropriate Technologies can be developed as part of a community-based praxis where communities are actively engaged in the analysis of the core issues poverty as well as the development and implementation of strategic hard and soft appropriate technologies that make social and economic transformation a reality.

Brief Biography:

David Bartecchi is the director for Program Development at the Colorado based NGO, Village Earth and faculty of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) at Colorado State University. He is founder and director of Village Earth's "Pine Ridge Tiyospaye Lands Recovery Project" and has served as a facilitator, trainer and consultant for projects on the Rosebud Reservation, Seventeen recognized tribes in Southern California, Oklahoma, as well as Peru, Ecuador, India, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.

Host: Professor Roy Smith (roy@ece.ucsb.edu)

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