

Schools turn waste into fuel

By Juliet Waiswa

Resty Nsubuga Namiiro, the headteacher of Kansanga Seed Primary School, is all smiles as she speaks about a sanitation project which has brought about changes in her school. Before the introduction of biogas, the school used to spend a lot of energy from firewood to prepare meals, Nsubuga explains.

She adds that on average, the school used to buy between three to four trucks of firewood to prepare meals in a term. Today, they use one truck which costs about sh700, 000 for a term.

With funding from Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in 2013, the school constructed a 14-stance toilet unit.

"Kansanga Seed Primary School has greatly benefited from the use of solid waste to prepare meals for teachers and pupils," says Namiiro.

According to the officer of waste and sanitation, Richard Mutabazi, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) began with Kansanga Seed Primary as a pilot. With funding from GIZ, they were able to construct a bio toilet.

The toilet uses little water. The faecal matter is separated when the flushing is done once

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after breakfast, lunch and in the evening, before pupils leave for their homes.

This method reduces the amount of water used and the waste is also utilised. Mutabazi says Kansanga is a water logged area, which means a pit latrine gets filled fast, requiring emptying, which is costly to KCCA. However, with the construction of the bio toilets, the school administration is able to generate gas which is using in preparing meals for pupils and teachers.

The school is able to save between 30-40% of the energy which it used to spend on cooking. Less firewood is used compared to what was used previously. Other schools that benefited from this programme are Kisasi, Kasubi Church of Uganda, Nagulu-Katale, Kitebi

and Nsambya Police.

Others where KCCA intends to set up the same facilities to reduce on water usage include St James Biina, Luzira Church of Uganda, Mbuya Church of Uganda, Nakivubo Blue and Kiswa.

"The intention of KCCA is to have schools save on their water and energy bills, which would otherwise get back to administration," Mutabazi says.

This has not been the only area where KCCA has set out to improve sanitation.

In the communities, KCCA has constructed latrines at Gaba landing site which did not have a toilet, in Kinawataka (Nakawa division) and Butabika community. The aim was to reduce on the disease burden in the communities.

Mutabazi says following a Presidential directive to offer free toilet services to the city dwellers, all KCCA toilets offer free services. He reveals that KCCA has 16 toilets which offer free services to city dwellers.

These toilets are located at the City Square, Watoto Church, Entebbe Road, Bombo Road, Wandegaya, Central Park and USAFI market, among others. KCCA has also constructed toilets in public primary schools, communities and health centres.