Envirocoal has multiple environmental benefits, but it is the sustainable community-building work above ground that’s attracting international recognition and awards for producer PT Adaro Indonesia, a World Coal Association Member.

Garibaldi Thohir
President Director of PT Adaro Energy

PT Adaro Indonesia produces one of the cleanest fossil fuels in the world. Ultra low levels of sulphur, ash and nitrogen mean its ‘Envirocoal’ branded product is in demand with the global power industry, where it’s used as a direct feed or mixed with other types of coal.

These environmental attributes have in turn been extended and integrated into the company’s approach to doing business.

Recycling mine water
Perhaps the most striking illustration of Adaro’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) approach is a new initiative to recycle waste water from its mines into clean drinking water.

Energy and water, probably mankind’s two most vital resources, are closely linked. In the villages of Padang Panjang and Dahai, closest to the mines, this interdependence has a profound impact.

Waste water, primarily from rainfall, is continually pumped from the mine to settling ponds, where it is treated before being released into local waterways. But Adaro, following Reduce, Reuse and Recycle principles, has now built a treatment plant that produces drinking water of the highest standards.

The benefits to villagers are significant. Most people in rural Indonesia get their water from rivers and streams; and wells if they can afford it. But these settlements sit in low-lying areas where a lot of the standing water is stagnant, creating continuous health issues.

A 15km network of pipelines built by Adaro now transports potable water from the treatment plant to the heart of the villages, all year round. The firm’s employees and more than 5500 villagers alike benefit.

Encouraging self-sufficiency
But what has made this scheme a multiple award-winner is the way in which the treatment plant is managed. Planning long-term, Adaro aims to help create sustainable and independent post-mine communities. To encourage self-sufficiency, the facility is governed and run by the community themselves.

Board members from the community are elected at village meetings. They’re then trained on water supply management techniques by PT Adaro Indonesia and other industry experts.

To encourage a sense of responsibility towards its new plant, the water is not given away for free. Customers pay for their water at locally affordable rates, and the funds are in turn collected and used on village improvements.
15 km of pipelines, built by Adaro, now transport potable water from the treatment plant to the heart of the villages, all year round. The firm’s employees and more than 5500 villagers benefit.

This is just one example of projects where Adaro is combining environmental management and rehabilitation with community development.

Magic cars
They range from sponsoring dozens of local students through university, to running a biodiesel plant to replace diesel in dump trucks, to re-using water from the reclaimed Paringin mine to cultivate freshwater shrimp and tilapia fish. And its free, mobile cataract surgeries, nicknamed ‘magic cars’, have returned the sight or significantly improved life quality for more than 3600 people.

The multiplier effect
The company is keenly aware of the multiplier effect its work has on the economy, education, health and the environment everywhere it operates. And it makes business sense.

“We cannot increase our production if we cannot manage our surroundings,” says Garibaldi Thohir, President Director of PT Adaro Energy. “That is why I spend most of my time dealing with CSR and the development of the local area. If we can better develop surrounding communities, then those communities will feel that Adaro belongs to them.”

www.worldcoal.org

Find out more
To read more about PT Adaro’s CSR initiatives visit www.adaro.com
To find out more about the World Coal Association and our work, visit www.worldcoal.org or email info@worldcoal.org

The multiple benefits of clean coal

PT Adaro is Indonesia’s second largest coal mining company. It’s based in South Kalimantan Province and is a major exporter to global energy markets and a supplier to the domestic power and cement industries.

Its Envirocoal branded product has the lowest ash content of any coal produced for global export. This matters to countries like Japan, for example, which has limited capacity for ash disposal. Low ash levels also cut deposits in boilers, boosting thermal efficiency and reducing maintenance costs.

Likewise, Envirocoal’s ultra-low nitrogen and sulphur content has multiple environmental benefits, saving the cost of removing nitrous oxides from flue gases, and desulphurisation units – which can account for up to 20% of the total capital expenditure of a new power station.

To read more about PT Adaro’s CSR initiatives visit www.adaro.com
To find out more about the World Coal Association and our work, visit www.worldcoal.org or email info@worldcoal.org