The Challenge

Design a low-cost, time-saving, and simple manufacturing procedure to convert a Toyota pickup alternator into a picoHydro generator, reducing the cost of the system from \$300 to \$250.

Existing Manufacturing Method

Use tin snips to cut laminates for generator core by hand. Drill five holes with hand drill.

Intake

Penstock

Head



Generator core

Alternator

picoHydro Generator

International Development Design Summit 2008

1 Cut 1mm thick mild steel sheet into squares





Trace shape using template



Punch out bolt holes using template



4 Center punch shaft hole using template



Cut edges using cutting tool

Our Innovation

Tooling to improve the speed and ease of manufacturing and assembling a picoHydro generator core.

Drill hole for shaft using jig



Turbine/Generator

Image adapted from www.greenzoneenergy.com