

Biography on Rodney Sidloski

Rodney grew up on a large mixed farm near Weyburn in a family with a long-term commitment to community infrastructure building in setting up an early telephone company and extensive rural road networks.

From 1985 to 1992 Rodney was Project Manager with U.N. WFP and CARE in Emergency Programs in Sudan and Mozambique that culminated in Rodney serving as National Drought Program coordinator in Kenya in 1992.

The Mozambique Department of Agriculture accredited year-round agriculture campaigns designed and administered by Rodney as having increased agricultural production in war-torn Nampula province by 233%. Rodney also designed a war time road and bridge reconstruction program that rebuilt 63 road bridges using almost entirely local resources and technology.

In 1993 Rodney founded the ENGO HELP International.

In the 1990s Rodney designed and implemented the Slum Conversion Program with Nairobi City Council which continues today. This multi-component program included the first application of Kenya's new housing code for low-cost quality housing for sub-division development. Rodney's project included the construction of 23 homes, school construction, river margin forestation, and zero waste community management which involved the start up of 12 waste recycling industries.

In 2003 Rodney designed and continues to implement a national agro-forestry program in Kenya which works in partnership with more than two dozen NGOs and CBOs coordinating agro-forestry activities in 460 farm communities.

In the 2005 six country survey of 26 international development projects funded by the federal government, CIDA's report named HELP's Zero Waste Community Management project in Kenya as one of only two projects that truly met the programme's criteria of delivering innovation and sustainable results.

In Canada

Rodney designed a live-in ecology training camp that from 1994 to year 2007 hosted 300 schools across the prairies to carry out training and research on environmental protection technologies.

In year 2000, Rodney designed a five part environmental protection program to create healthier sustainable communities living in a sustainable natural eco system. Working with 16 urban and rural municipalities predominantly in Saskatchewan's southeast, this show case of projects came to include:

- a) The Souris River and Farm Protection Program: The largest forestation of cultivated stream margins in Canada with 160 km of stream margins forested to date.
- b) The first landfill forest caps and forest filters in Canada.
- c) The first effluent irrigated woodlot communities in Saskatchewan at Halbrite, Stoughton and the Noramera Bioenergy Ethanol Plant.
- d) Salinity Control Forestation around municipal lagoons and stream margins.
- e) Zero Waste Community Management: the long-term commitment of communities to achieve 100% separation of household wastes; to keep our valuable waste products within our community; and to develop low cost intermediate technologies for creating profitable recycling industries to create new products for local use.

HELP's board of directors includes representatives from Sask Environment, Service Canada, a consultant working with the U.S. Trade and Patent office in Washington, a teacher, a businessman and a farmer.