

Low Tech Solutions

Why is it that people seem to think that the newest technology is always the best? From high speed trains to high speed Internet you could be forgiven for thinking that faster is always better (not to mention more efficient and more economical). We decided to investigate a few simpler, more low tech solutions to the worlds problems.

Meet the slow Theatre



Much of our popular entertainment these days is action packed, expensive and based in cities. So the Rural Academy decided they wanted to offer an alternative.

Touring the United States they take an horse drawn theatre and a bicycle powered silent cinema on the road with them. They want to celebrate and call attention to life in more rural locations in what they see in opposition as the global urbanisation of our culture, economy , media and art. By using a carriage pulled by horses rather than a vehicle that runs on

petrol, they offer a less expensive, low-tech alternative entertainment which they hope will include more people and move at a slower pace.

The roundabout water pump



Access to a clean water supply is still one of the biggest problems for people living in rural villages in Asia and Africa. To try and solve the problem, a company in South Africa has invented a way to use children's high energy levels to help pump water from underground. The Playpump is a water pump that is powered when the children use the roundabout. As they play, the water is

pumped from below the ground into a storage tank. Before the pumps were installed, many young girls had to spend hours of their day walking to collect water rather than going to school. With the new pumps, however, the girls don't need to miss school so they get a much better education.

Bus stop libraries in Bogotá



The invention of the ebook has meant that books are now slightly cheaper and a lot lighter to carry. But in Bogotá, Colombia, they had a far better idea for helping people to read on the go. The city wanted to improve the access that young people had to books but not by buying tablets. They decided to install colourful book libraries around the city in the

parks and at bus stops. What could be better than to sit in the sunshine and read a book while waiting for your bus?