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Green Fire Innovation Limited unlocks the maximum funding from the Catalytic Africa matching fund, following a \$60,000 investment by the Zambia Business Angels Network

Zambia, 17 April 2026

Zambia-based startup Green Fire Innovation Limited (GFIL) has unlocked maximum funding from Catalytic Africa's matching fund, following a USD 60,000 investment by the Zambia Business Angels Network (ZBAN).

Incubated by Timbuktoo Africa, GFIL is a leading provider of sustainable energy solutions and specializes in eco-friendly charcoal briquettes and energy-efficient products designed to reduce reliance on traditional, environmentally harmful fuels. Through its flagship product *Green Fire Blocks*, this startup is transforming how communities and businesses across Zambia access and use energy, providing a cleaner and more sustainable way to heat and cook.

The company's **Co-founder and CTO, Hildah Nakatunga**, emphasizes that by choosing GFIL's renewable energy solutions, customers help protect the environment while enjoying reliable, cost-effective alternatives. *"We believe everyone should have access to affordable, environmentally conscious energy options. Currently, our production depends on daily sales, limiting our ability to purchase raw materials in bulk. With this Catalytic Africa matching fund, we will secure a more consistent supply, increase production from 90 to around 200 bags of eco-friendly charcoal per day, and improve product consistency. This will allow us to meet existing demand, serve more households with cleaner energy alternatives, reduce pressure on forests, and build a stronger, more reliable business while empowering communities with energy-efficient solutions."*



Commenting on the milestone, **Ndita Mulimbeni, National Coordinator of ZBAN**, said: *“Unlocking Catalytic Africa funding marks a significant milestone for ZBAN and the broader investment ecosystem in Zambia. This support strengthens our ability to mobilize local capital, back high-potential entrepreneurs, and deepen the role of angel investing in driving inclusive economic growth. We are excited about the opportunities this creates for our investors and the startups we serve.”*



Fadilah Tchoumba, CEO of ABAN and Fund Manager, Catalytic Africa, added, “Co-investing with ZBAN to support GFIL is an exciting step for us. We are thrilled to help accelerate the adoption of sustainable energy solutions across the region and create opportunities for similar startups to grow. Supporting a company that drives environmental impact, empowers communities, and delivers value to a diverse customer base is a remarkable achievement. This initiative was made possible through the support of the United Nations Development Programme, via a catalytic capital pool dedicated to Timbuktoo-incubated startups across the continent.”

With Catalytic Africa’s matching fund, GFIL is poised to scale its sustainable energy solutions across Zambia. This funding strengthens the company’s ability to maintain consistent production, reach more households with eco-friendly alternatives, and continue to drive environmental impact, while highlighting ZBAN's role in mobilizing local capital and supporting high-potential startups.

For more information about this transaction, media inquiries, interviews, or high-resolution images, please contact secretariat@abanangels.org

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About Catalytic Africa

Catalytic Africa is a co-investment solution that raises funds (grant, equity, or debt) from various institutional partners to add to a pool. This pool serves as a co-investment fund to encourage investment in viable African startups. To date, **local angel investors have invested USD 1.6 Million** in innovative startups, and Catalytic Africa has deployed **USD 1.5 Million** as qualified matching funds, leading to a cumulative amount of over **USD 3.1 Million** invested in African startups across 15 countries. Visit the [Catalytic Africa website](#) for more details.

About Green Fire Innovation Limited

Green Fire Innovation Limited is a Lusaka-based provider of sustainable energy solutions committed to transforming how communities and businesses across Zambia access and use energy. The company specializes in eco-friendly charcoal briquettes and energy-efficient products that reduce reliance on traditional, environmentally harmful fuels. Beyond supplying products, Green Fire empowers communities with affordable, energy-efficient machinery and tailored support to encourage the adoption of renewable energy practices. Through its innovative solutions, the company helps conserve forests, lower household energy costs, and promote cleaner, more sustainable living. Visit the [GFIL website](#) for more information.

Visit the [official ZBAN website](#) for more information about the network.

About Timbuktoo

Timbuktoo is a pan-African innovation initiative powered by the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#) that aims to unlock Africa's startup potential by connecting entrepreneurs with capital, expertise, and global markets. Designed as a collaborative platform bringing together governments, investors, universities, and the private sector, Timbuktoo seeks to mobilize US\$1 billion in catalytic and commercial capital to support Africa's innovation ecosystem. Through a network of sector-focused innovation hubs and university-based innovation pods (UniPods) across the continent, Timbuktoo supports early-stage founders, accelerates high-growth startups, and strengthens the broader ecosystem needed for innovation to scale. The initiative aims to support 10,000 startups, scale 1,000 ventures, and help create millions of jobs while improving livelihoods across Africa. Read more about Timbuktoo [here](#).