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John Barrie is Founder and the Chief Innovation Officer of the Appropriate Technology Collaborative, a nonprofit that designs affordable, sustainable, technologies for the world's poorest people. John is an Architect, Mathematician and Industrial Designer; he has also been an Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the University of Michigan.

John is founder of Mayan Power and Light, a program in Guatemala that teaches Mayan women about solar power, and creates Mayan woman owned social venture businesses. In 2019 Mayan Power and Light won the Energy Globe Award for Guatemala.

In 2016 Mayan Power and Light was recognized by the United Nations Compact for Sustainable Development as a "Sustainia 100", one of the top 100 sustainable enterprises world-wide.