

Rural Solar Lighting Project

Leaders of the Initiative

Hari Lamba, Downers Grove, IL
Jiwan Parkash Sondhi, Detroit, MI

OBJECTIVE

To encourage and promote the Use of Alternative Energy Resources such as solar, wind and bio-energy, for meeting the urgent needs of villagers in India.

Where and How We Will Begin

We will begin with implementing the use of solar lights to replace kerosene lamps in the villages near Gurgaon, Haryana and Chitrakoot, M.P., India to provide benefits to the villagers such as gainful employment, improvement of health, and replacement of pollution causing kerosene lamps with solar lamps.

Current Conditions

Kerosene lanterns use heavily subsidized kerosene, which is very polluting, causes indoor air pollution enough to cause severe respiratory problems for children in enclosed village huts, and pose a fire

hazard. Kerosene lanterns emit 1/3rd of a ton of carbon dioxide every year, and the total emissions in a villages are significant as hundreds of millions people use them.

We will make an attempt to make solar lights available at an affordable cost, especially to the poorest in the villages. Families in each cluster of villages will be benefited in terms of the availability of lighting derived from clean energy for their income generating crafts activities, the provision of more reading hours for their school age children, and creating more employment opportunities to local entrepreneurs, many of whom may be women.

Proposed Approach

Kerosene lamps that have been used in India are traditionally for indoor lighting at night, and for undertaking urgent family tasks outside the home. School going children have limited facility to study at night, as they have to use kerosene lamps. If they are replaced with solar lamps, school children can study and function for more number of hours at night. The germ of the initiative is to replace kerosene lamps with solar energy charged lamps with small batteries that use LEDs (light emitting diodes) that use very little power. Women

empowerment will be a key feature. Villagers will be able to get the charged battery/light units for a cost that is equal to or less than what the currently subsidized price that they pay for kerosene.

Initial Project Locations

Deendayal Research Institute (DRI),
Siyaram Kutir, Chitrakoot, Dist. Satna,
Madhya Pradesh, 485331, INDIA, Phone
91-7670-265353 , 91-7670-265623 , 91-
05198-224-427, Fax. 91-07670-265510
E-mail bharat@chitrakoot.org
Website: www.chitrakoot.org

The Sehgal Foundation, IRRAD Green
Energy Training Centre, Gurgaon, Haryana
website: www.smsfoundation.org
Email: Jay.sehgal@smsfoundation.org

DRI has set up a comprehensive infrastructure that will help in the implementation of this initiative. Besides the Centre at Chitrakoot, they have educated resident couples living in the surrounding area. Also, Mr. Sondhi has set up a training room, and already installed, on a trial basis, 18 solar lights and 4 solar street lights in some of the surrounding villages.

Solar Lanterns



Sankeerna Sun-Kiran 360

A variety of solar lanterns are available today. The main components are, 1) a small solar panel, a rechargeable battery, and LED (light emitting diode) lights that use very little electricity and provide similar light levels to incandescent & CFL lights.



SOLAR LED 33 LEDs - 2 LAMPS & A 10 WATT PANEL

How can you help?

Help dispel the darkness, and light up their lives, by making a tax deductible donation.

\$25 gets a solar lantern for a hut - \$100 gets solar lights for a village house – any multiples of those are welcome too.

Please write a check payable to, "IDCA", and earmarked to the "Rural Solar Light project". Please mail it to:

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To find out more about IDCA, please contact:

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Rural Solar Lighting Project

An Initiative of



India Development
Coalition of America

*Promoting Collaboration, networking,
volunteering, giving, sharing to accelerate
sustainable development in India to alleviate
Poverty and mitigate climate change.*

Inform, Inspire, Involve

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