Why Solar Cooking?

Nearly 3 billion people lack modern energy for cooking food and making water safe to drink. Many of these people are forced to buy or gather expensive and scarce fuels. Household air pollution (caused by sources like cooking fires) causes over 3.8 million premature deaths annually — more deaths than from malaria, HIV/AIDS, and diarrheal disease combined. Cooking and making water safe with free, no-emission solar energy helps women as they strive to break the cycle of energy poverty. Solar cooking offers a powerful solution, particularly for people earning less than 2 USD per day.

How Can I Help?

Join the Movement

Connect, research, cook, volunteer, teach, learn, promote, build, buy, test, manufacture, share.

Become an SCI Associate

Join an elite group with a high impact on solar cooking.

Make a Donation

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or online at:
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Founded in 1987, Solar Cookers International (SCI) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization leading the solar cooking movement to improve human and environmental health by supporting the expansion of effective carbon-free solar cooking in world regions of greatest need.

Photo credit: Quang Nguyen Vinh (2020)
Benefits of Solar Cooking

**Breathe cleaner air** Solar cooking generates no emissions or air pollution, unlike wood, charcoal, or dung fires.

**Increase health and safety** Solar cooking reduces the risk of violence that women can face while gathering fuel. Solar cookers decrease respiratory illnesses, pasteurize contaminated drinking water, and reduce burns from traditional cooking fires.

**Preserve habitats** Each solar cooker can save up to one tonne of wood annually, reducing deforestation and mitigating climate change.

**Achieve human potential** Women and children have more time to attend school or earn income instead of collecting fuel up to 20 hours each week.

**Increase energy independence** With solar cooking, people can cook with less dependence on supply chains, utility companies, or having an income. Free solar energy is delivered right to everyone’s home every sunny day.

**Number of solar cookers**

| 24 | 75,000 |

International Leadership

SCI leads and convenes the solar cooking sector with collaborators in over 135 countries.

**Advocacy**

SCI holds special consultative status with the United Nations since 1996 and provides expertise to international organizations such as the World Health Organization.

**Research**

SCI developed, implemented, and manages the Solar Cooker Performance Evaluation Process (PEP) to measure the standardized cooking power of different solar cookers in watts.

**Capacity Building**

SCI manages the world’s largest solar cooking knowledge base to educate and connect billions of people, with translations in 46 languages at [www.solarcooking.org](http://www.solarcooking.org).

4+ million solar cookers identified and counting means...

- More than 14.3 million people are directly impacted by solar cooking.
- Over 5.8 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions are prevented in one year. This is equal to taking more than 1.25 million cars off the road.
- Over 30 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions are prevented over the lifetime of solar cookers.
- Countries can save millions, even billions of dollars annually, through avoided health and environmental costs by switching from cooking over open fires to solar cooking.

*Estimated impacts

Please visit [www.solarcookers.org](http://www.solarcookers.org) for up-to-date information.