

Solar Cookers International Strategic Plan 2018-2021

*Approved by the SCI Board of Directors 3 February 2018
(extended by board approval on 16 May 2020)*

- I. SCI Mission/Vision Statement
- II. Background
- III. Outcomes
- IV. Impact
- V. Outputs (High Level Goals)
 - 1) Advocacy
 - 2) Strengthen the capacity of the global movement and amplify its impact
 - 3) Research and Development

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I. SCI Mission/Vision Statement

Solar Cookers International improves human and environmental health by supporting the expansion of effective carbon-free solar cooking in world regions of greatest need. SCI leads through advocacy, research, and strengthening the capacity of the global solar cooking movement.

II. Background

Since 1987, SCI has worked to improve access to sustainable, clean energy in the world regions of greatest need to cook and make water safe to drink.

Using no-emission solar thermal energy technologies for cooking and water pasteurization:

- improves human health;
- reduces global carbon dioxide and black carbon soot emissions;
- reduces deforestation;
- preserves the productivity of agricultural lands, improving food security;
- preserves environments; and
- provides economic benefits through income savings and income generation.

Through advocacy, capacity-building, and research, Solar Cookers International (SCI) leads the global movement promoting clean, sustainable solar cooking technologies. SCI is committed to improving access to sustainable, clean energy in the world regions of greatest need to cook and make water safe to drink. Peers, constituencies, and policy-makers consider SCI to be a reliable and accessible voice on key health, energy, and environmental issues.

With your support, we can achieve the goals outlined in this plan and exponentially increase the adoption of solar cooking worldwide.

III. Outcomes

Solar cooking reduces the high social cost of carbon and particulate emissions that impact all humans and environments today.

SCI advocates for policy proposals and evidence-based solutions to increase energy access for cooking and safe water needs, improving human and environmental health. As a research leader in the solar cooking sector, SCI influences what others choose to research. As a neutral and objective organization, SCI is uniquely suited to lead the development of testing platforms for solar cookers.

SCI is trusted and has strong, enduring relationships with key actors. SCI promotes its humanitarian and environmental agenda, backed by solid research and data, through multiple digital and media avenues, and through international convenings with government leaders and decision-makers. SCI works with regional and local leaders in less-developed countries, and supports their efforts to make solar cooking sustainable in their communities. SCI's bottom-up and top-down approaches amplify the impact of the global solar cooking sector. Areas of focus for the 2018 strategic plan include advocacy, strengthening the capacity of the global solar cooking movement to amplify its impact, and research and development.

IV. Impact

SCI influences:

- Changes in policy
- Changes in practice
- Changes in research and development

that result in an increased adoption of solar cooking worldwide.

V. Outputs 2018-2021 (High Level Goals)

1) Advocacy

SCI is a reliable, accessible leader on key issues related to scaling energy access, poverty alleviation, human health, and environmental stewardship.

SCI will advocate with global leaders to ensure solar cooking is recognized as a critical solution to achieve climate and health goals.

- 1.1 Cultivate partners to carry forward SCI's agenda across multiple levels (international, regional, national and community) to include solar cooking as a critical solution to achieve global climate and health goals. Potential partners include, but are not limited to, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Solar Energy Society (ISES), national governments, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, and the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation/Global Burden of Disease.
- 1.2 Provide government agencies and high-impact stakeholders with evidence and rationales for including solar thermal in national, regional, and local plans to achieve global climate goals, such as the Paris Agreement 2015 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

2) Strengthen the capacity of the global movement and amplify its impact

Through its strong relationships and reputation amongst decision-makers, SCI leads efforts to develop and adopt high-impact, financially-sound strategies to improve success of solar cooking stakeholders. SCI will build its internal capacity to support the expansion of the global movement.

SCI will grow its formal network of engaged solar cooker implementing partners, the Solar Cookers International Association (SCIA). SCI will promote best practices by producing and distributing top-quality, evidence-based materials and publications to grow the scale and amplify the capacity of the global solar cooking movement.

Grow the reach of the SCI Association on every continent.

Enhance SCI's honors and awards programs to draw attention to the most successful (most replicable) innovations in solar cooking.

- 2.1 Enhance capacity (including, but not limited to, staff resources, equipment, web platforms, and webinars) to provide solar cooker education and promote SCI programs through gathered, digital, and media opportunities.
- 2.2 Maintain the quality of, improve content of, and increase access to the solar cooking knowledge base.
- 2.3 Engage young professionals to bring their support, energy, and leadership to the solar cooking sector. Set group quarterly goals to help SCI achieve outcomes. Review structure and progress quarterly.
- 2.4 Update content and format of SCI's historic solar cooking project guides.
- 2.5 Provide a forum for partners to share best practices and exchange ideas through webinars, conferences, online communications, and/or meetings with key stakeholders.
- 2.6 Develop and implement plan to integrate and/or refine web platforms. Includes new website development, transition of current content, and staff to develop and maintain these critical platforms.

3) Research and development

SCI will support improvements in solar cooking policy, practice, and research by building an evidence-base to demonstrate effectiveness.

In 2016, SCI developed its Performance Evaluation Process (PEP) to improve comparability and evaluate effectiveness across diverse designs of solar cookers. SCI will use results from the PEP to impact manufacturers and drive an improvement in top-quality designs. To increase uptake of evaluated solar cookers, SCI must expand the number and locations of testing centers. To help users make informed choices and select high-quality technologies, SCI will improve its website.

- 3.1 Promote the PEP as a tool for proving the suitability of solar cookers and driving improvement in designs.
- 3.2 Develop additional usability testing protocol for solar cooking technologies.
- 3.3 Establish additional PEP testing centers in Africa and Asia with the goal of five (5) total testing centers.
- 3.4 Establish a definition of adoption that will be accepted and referenced by the global sector. Closely monitor early usage of the term to ensure that assumptions made about the meaning of technology adoption hold true.
- 3.5 Add robustness to forecasting, for example by partnership with a data or metrics organization.
- 3.6 Increase SCI's capacity to gather data and track impact metrics. Metrics and approaches for measuring impact will resemble those used in the clean energy sector.