

Solar Cooking: A Sustainable Solution

In November, SCI representatives attended the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), better known as COP23. Thanks to private donors, SCI was there to be the voice of the global solar cooking movement to 25,000 attendees in Bonn, Germany.

During the conference, SCI representatives presented at four press conferences on energy access and presented recent research findings to policy makers, government officials, and international media.

“Thanks to the data submitted by SCI and its partners, national and international energy agencies sat up and paid attention to the evidence of solar cooking’s impact,” reports Julie Greene, SCI’s Executive Director. “Most importantly, they started conversations with SCI to explore solar cooking as a solution to urgent health and environmental challenges.”

While at SCI’s exhibit booth, the Honorable John Thomas Pundari, Papua New Guinea’s Minister for Environment Conservation and Climate Change, noticed that there are no solar cookers listed for Papua New Guinea on SCI’s Global Distribution Map. He learned about the benefits of solar cooking from SCI and now is demanding solar cooking be incorporated as a climate change solution for his people.



Dr. Alice Ekwu (center), Honorable Commissioner for the Nigerian Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry, purchases a CookIt from Program Director Caitlyn Hughes and Executive Director Julie Greene at COP23 in Bonn, Germany.

Dr. Alice Ekwu, Honourable Commissioner for the Nigerian Ministry of Climate Change and Forestry met SCI representatives at COP 23. Dr. Ekwu became so excited about solar cooking, she purchased a CookIt to take home as an example and already knows how she wants to integrate solar cookers into the government-led clean cooking programs she directs.

SCI Board Member Mike Paparian also praised SCI’s presence at COP23. “This was my third U.N. climate summit, but the first one as a Solar Cookers International Board Member,” Mr. Paparian wrote. “The urgency and determination to address climate change is stronger than ever and people from around the world are recognizing that clean cooking is part of the solution.”



SCI representatives speak at COP23. From left: Board Member Mike Paparian, Program Director Caitlyn Hughes, and Science Director Alan Bigelow, Ph.D.

Letter from the Executive Director

Throughout three decades of experience, SCI has learned beyond a doubt that solar cooking succeeds in a community when the people are convinced it will work, and everyone is involved.

SCI staff can't be everywhere at once. Nor should we be.

We respect and rely on our partners' superior cultural and advocacy knowledge in their local context. To provide leadership opportunities and build local advocacy partnerships, SCI created its Global Advisory Council in 2014. Since then, SCI Global Advisors have had a big impact on solar cooking.

From national advocacy to participation in United Nations events, to hosting an SCI conference, SCI's



Above: Solar cooks gathered at the Balcha Newari Solar Restaurant in Machhegaun, Nepal, pose with SCI Global Advisors Godfrey Kaburu and Sanu Kaji Shrestha, SCI Science Director Alan Bigelow, Ph.D., SCI Associate Kriti Shrestha, solar cooking pioneer Allart Ligtenberg, and solar cooking enthusiast Jacek Kopycinski from the Tek Chok Ling Nunnery.

Global Advisors create important leadership and energy for the global solar cooking movement in unique ways. And SCI continues to increase the number and broaden the regional diversity of its SCI Global Advisory Council.

For 30 years, SCI has involved people around the globe. Some are cooks, some village dwellers, others own

restaurants, want to be entrepreneurs, teach others, provide support, are academics, inventors, or add solar cooking to their small business inventories.

SCI Global Advisors are nominated by SCI Associates, SCI staff, and SCI board members. In December 2017, SCI published a call for nominations for SCI Global Advisors. Many associates responded with nominations of colleagues whose solar cooking work is held in high regard. The SCI board of directors must approve the appointment of all advisors who represent SCI.

It takes many people to work together on the solar cooking solution. This month, we specially honor the SCI Global Advisory Council members. Read more about SCI's Global Advisors at solarcookers.org/about/people.



Above: SCI Global Advisor Dr. Mrs. Janak Palta McGilligan speaks with the media during the 2017 Clean Cooking Forum in New Delhi, India.

Right: SCI Global Advisor Deepak Gadhia presents "Solar Cooking in India" during Day 3 of the Clean Cooking Forum in New Delhi, India. Mr. Gadhia's appearance at the Clean Cooking Forum was supported by the SCI Travel Fund.



Julie Greene
Executive Director
Solar Cookers International

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more than ever

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A Solar Cook, A Train, and a VP: CohnReznick Capital Joins the SCI Team

Thanks to our supporters, SCI was able to bring SCI Global Advisor Dr. Mrs. Janak Palta McGilligan to the United Nations in New York to be a strong advocate for the importance of solar cooking in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. While on the train to the United Nations events, Cohn Reznick Capital Vice President Iany Ianachkova met

SCI staff, SCI board members, and Dr. Mrs. McGilligan. SCI's story so inspired Ms. Ianachkova that she now strongly promotes it within her own solar-powered spheres, committed to joining SCI's Board of Directors, and encourages others to become a part of SCI. SCI is pleased to welcome CohnReznick Capital as SCI's newest Organizational Level Associate.



Members of CohnReznick Capital met with SCI representatives in July 2017. From left: CohnReznick Capital Associate John Richardson; SCI Board Member Mike Paparian; SCI Global Advisor Dr. Mrs. Janak Palta McGilligan; SCI Board Member & CohnReznick Capital Vice President Iany Ianachkova; and SCI Science Director Alan Bigelow, Ph.D.

MIT Climate CoLab Awards “Judges’ Choice” to SCI Associate Heliac Solar

SCI’s Performance Evaluation Process Named as Finalist

Heliac Solar, an SCI Organizational Associate, earned the Judges’ Choice Award and SCI’s Performance Evaluation Process was named as a Finalist in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Climate CoLab “Energy Supply 2018” contest. Judges agreed that solar cooking is an “exciting new approach to tackling climate change—from reducing emissions to shifting public perception to pricing carbon.”

The MIT Climate CoLab is an online crowdsourcing platform of over 100,000 global members, sourcing proposals on climate adaptation, reducing emissions from buildings and transport, behavioral change strategies, and more.



SCI Organizational Associate Sedi Byskov demonstrates the Heliac Solar Cooker during the 6th SCI World Conference in Gujarat, India. The Heliac Solar Cooker uses a Fresnel lens to concentrate solar energy for cooking.

Your Contributions at Work: SCI Travel Fund

One of our donors' greatest contributions to SCI's programs is the SCI Travel Fund. In 2017, you supported numerous travel grants to attendees of the 6th SCI World Conference in Gujarat, India.

Godfrey Mawira Kaburu, a civil engineer and current Project Manager with the World Food Programme, was a recipient of SCI travel funding in January 2017. Mr. Kaburu, who works with refugees in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, called the 6th SCI World Conference "one of the most enlightening moments in my life."

Mr. Kaburu has passionately advocated the benefits of solar cooking. In April, he co-organized a solar cooking festival for 500 schoolchildren at Kakuma Refugee Camp. And in November Mr. Kaburu represented the delegation from Kenya at this year's ISO/TC285 Plenary, a meeting of the technical committee working to define standards for clean cookstoves held in Nepal. Once again, Mr. Kaburu's travel expense was funded by SCI donors.

Mr. Kaburu, who conducted research recently on factors that increase solar cooker use, provided



SCI Global Advisor Godfrey Mawira Kaburu positions a CookIt with a staff member from the Centre for Rural Technology-Nepal while setting up a SCI Performance Evaluation Process (PEP) testing station.

valuable first-hand knowledge to the working group. SCI's Science Director Alan Bigelow, Ph.D., also attended as a member of the U.S. delegation. Together, their involvement drove the inclusion of solar cookers within the international stove performance standard. Including solar cookers in international stove standards will increase awareness and acceptance of solar cookers worldwide.

One of SCI's newest Global Advisors, Mr. Kaburu continues to research technology adoption in Kenya, and is working to incorporate solar cooking into a bakery at Kakuma Refugee Camp.

Meanwhile, SCI invites donors to support the SCI Travel Fund for deserving solar advocates working all around the world.

You Can Trust SCI

SCI has received the highest possible ratings from Charity Navigator as well as GuideStar, whose database includes detailed ratings, all revenue and expense data, and copies of SCI's 990 forms.

You can donate to SCI with confidence, knowing that SCI's transparency and accountability are verified by the world's largest source of nonprofit information.



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