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Media Resources + Images

Solar Cookers International Brings Clean Cooking Solutions to COP31

SACRAMENTO, California [November 2, 2026] — Solar Cookers International (SCI) will participate in the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31), highlighting the role of solar cooking in addressing climate change, improving health, empowering women, and reducing reliance on polluting cooking fuels.

Nearly 2 billion people worldwide still cook using wood, charcoal, or other polluting fuels. This dependence contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, household air pollution, and economic hardship, particularly for women and girls who are often responsible for fuel collection and meal preparation. At COP31, SCI will demonstrate how solar cooking can help address these interconnected challenges while supporting global climate and development goals.

One example SCI will share is its work in Mali. As the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) first-ever funding recipient through the Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN) to deliver zero-emission solar cooking solutions in Mali and the Central African Republic, SCI has helped expand solar cooking programs in partnership with government agencies and local organizations.

In Mali, participants reported a 47% reduction in cooking-related respiratory and eye problems and a 67% reduction in cooking fuel expenses after adopting solar cooking technologies. Building on the success of the CTCN project, SCI is working with partners to scale solar cooking nationwide, with the potential to reach 280,000 people in Mali over the next few years with carbon-financing support.

"Solar cooking delivers benefits that extend far beyond the kitchen," said Caitlyn Hughes, Executive Director Solar Cookers International. "By reducing emissions, improving health, lowering household expenses, and creating opportunities for climate finance, solar cooking offers a practical solution that supports both people and the planet."

Members of the media and other interested parties are invited to attend SCI's COP31 events and are encouraged to contact SCI for interviews before, during, or after the conference. A schedule of SCI's COP31 activities can be **found here**. Additional information about SCI's Mali program is available **here**.

About Solar Cookers International

Solar Cookers International (SCI) is internationally recognized for its expertise in scientific research and developing safe and sustainable solar thermal-powered cooking solutions. Founded in 1987, SCI has collaborators in over 135 countries, making nearly 8 billion solar-cooked meals possible. SCI has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and regularly provides expertise in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. SCI holds a four-star Charity Navigator rating. Learn more at solarcookers.org.