

MALAWI SOLAR COOKER PROJECT



Location: Malawi

Partner: Sustainable Resources LTD

Issue Areas: Extreme Poverty, Environmental Sustainability, Economic Sustainability

Points of Interest: Contact with Sustainable Resources

The Organization

In 2006, the founders of Sustainable Resources, Dr. Jan and Clarice Snyder, started a solar cooker project based upon designs available through Solar Cooker, International. The solar cooker project is a significant example of how “grassroots” fundraising and efforts can make a remarkable difference in the lives of Malawians. The solar cooker project has created a new industry to be built upon and managed by local entrepreneurs.

Sustainable Resources believes that this particular project serves as a perfect example of the potential success of funding the initial start-up of a business, and empowering the Malawians to develop the business themselves. Their goal is to break out of the traditional charity model, which encourages passive consumption of donations, and replace it with a model that encourages grassroots involvement and entrepreneurial efforts from the recipients.

Why the Need?

Malawians typically cook with firewood, a practice which creates many environmental and health related problems. Women walk great distances to collect wood on a daily basis, and this practice results in children being unattended for much of the day. The result is deforestation, terrible air quality due to constant cooking-fire smoke, and unnecessary injury and harm to young children whose mothers spend most of the day away from home foraging for firewood. The solar cookers also make it easier to eat more nutritious foods, such as legumes and whole grains, which otherwise would require a great amount of fuel to cook.

How Teams Efforts Translate to Impact

Funds NGC teams raise for the Solar Cooker Project will purchase materials for production of the solar cookers. The solar cookers, made with cardboard and aluminum foil, are very effective in cooking most foods without fire. Additionally the solar cookers can be used to disinfect drinking water and medical supplies, as well as assist in the canning of tomatoes and fruits. Each solar cooker costs \$5 to make.

The Partner

Sustainable Resources LTD provides educational, technical and financial support and resources to business and educational enterprises in developing countries. The objective of Sustainable Resources is to identify and support local industries or projects that provide jobs, education, or basic human needs to people that are in most need. The vision of Sustainable Resources is to be a technical and educational resource, and also to be a source of "seed money" to create and support locally owned/operated sustainable industries and educational centers. Sustainable Resources believes that in order to create effective and long lasting development, they should not be a source of "charitable" donations, but rather, provide start-up assistance for local businesses and industries, and then join the abilities of the recipients to continue to sustain and benefit from each industry after it has been started.

NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to Solar Cooker Project.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

The Solar Cooker Project supplies and promotes the production of solar cookers that can be locally produced at a low cost. The solar cooker production also creates jobs and a whole new local business which strengthens the local economy.

Additional Resources

Partner Website: <http://sustainableltd.org>

CIA World Factbook (Malawi): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mi.html>

Solar Cookers International: <http://www.solarcookers.org>

Additional resources: <http://www.sciencein africa.co.za/3cooker.htm>

Embassy of Malawi address:

1029 Vermont Avenue, NW #1000,
Washington DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 721-0274

See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.