



SolSource : China

A Renewable, Clean and Viable Alternative to Cooking with Dirty Fuels

Project description

The SolSource is an affordable and high-performing solar concentrator designed for the 2.5 billion people globally who rely on harmful solid fuels for their daily energy needs.



Business model

One Earth Designs (OED) is a social enterprise created to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in rural Himalayan communities. The SolSource is the first product in a series of appropriate technologies, co-designed by OED and its partner communities, whose commercialisation is intended to support the activities of the organisation at large.

Scaling up activities in 2011

- Finalise design for manufacturing the SolSource product (early 2011).
- Build Hong Kong entity (ongoing).
- Accelerate sales efforts with Chinese government clients (beginning early 2011).
- Raise additional capital for Hong Kong entity (early 2011).

Immediate needs

- Assistance with recruiting for sales/ HR/ accounting positions, designers, engineers.
- Expertise to understand the Western China market in depth (particularly existing products/ government contracts).
- Supply chain management.
- Contact with potential mentors, advisors and partners.





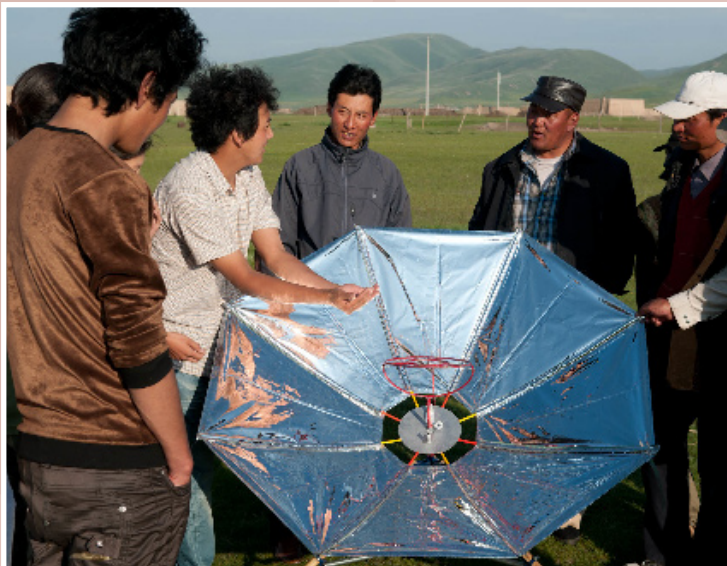
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for entrepreneurship in sustainable development

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Partnership

- **One Earth Designs, Inc.** will produce and distribute SolSource to local communities and international markets. It has numerous financial and technical partners who have provided grants, laboratory space, expert consultation, and access to critical networks.
- **Technical Partners:** MIT, Harvard University, Tsinghua University, Wellesley College, iCast, Qinghai Normal University, Goodwin Proctor, Deloitte.
- **Financial Partners:** US Environmental Protection Agency, the ONE Foundation, The Climate Group, ConocoPhillips, Clinton Global Initiative, and others.



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: Women and children spend many hours per day collecting solid fuels for basic energy needs, and thus neglect schooling and income generating opportunities. The SolSource addresses this need.

Environmental impact: According to estimates, burning solid fuels is our second largest contributor to global climate change. Widespread adoption of the SolSource would help to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

Economic impact: Women and children who do not need to collect fuel may devote newfound time to schooling and income-generating opportunities. This creates the potential for positive economic impact.

Contact

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SEED Partners

SEED is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Other current partners are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature); and the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.



About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: www.seedinit.org

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