



Solar Household Energy

Solar cooking for Human Development and Environmental Relief

September 2017 Newsletter

SHE launching solar cooker enterprise in Mexico and bringing relief to Mexico earthquake victims

SHE is excited to partner with Mexican solar cooking expert Lorena Harp to bring solar cooking to the rural women of Oaxaca State through a sustainable social enterprise. Lorena Harp has been promoting the HotPot and other solar cookers in Mexico for over ten years, and is now devoted to developing her own solar cooker social enterprise. She will introduce an affordable but durable solar cooker called the Haines Solar Cooker (HSC), training rural women to become "solar cooking ambassadors" who will sell HSC on commission to members of their communities and provide follow-up training and support. (Cont. on p.2)



Flora Garcia's grandson (Lorena's market research interviewee, see below) eagerly awaiting to try solar-baked cake. Photo credit: Lorena Harp

Check out our upcoming events!

Solar cooking demo at Edward F. Fry Memorial Library,
1635 Ballenger Creek Pike, Point of Rocks, MD 21777
Saturday, September 23 at 11 am

Environmental Education from a Refugee Camp,
Exhibit of art works created by African refugees living in Zimbabwe that focus on the environment.
GoodBuddyY Gallery, 410 Florida Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20001
Sept. 29th to Oct. 13, 2017

Donate to Solar Household Energy!



What your contribution can provide:

\$40 = Training of a solar cooking ambassador in a rural Mexican village, and the means to effect change within their community.

\$75 = Three solar cooker kits for three families, and a smoke free environment.

\$150 = Four solar cookers and long-term follow-up for four families, and a means to self-sustainability.

\$500 = A month's worth of solar cooking social enterprise start-up costs, and enhanced capacity and livelihood.

Volunteer and internship opportunities in:

- technology research
- local education/demos
- field project support
- administrative support
- fundraising
- website/social media
- writing/editing

For more information,
please send inquiries to:
inquiries@she-inc.org

(Cont. from p.1) SHE won funding from the Dorothy Ann Foundation to subsidize the Haines solar cooker and support Lorena's start-up activities, including carrying out market research, optimizing the Haines solar cooker and its pot for adoption by rural women, training solar cooking ambassadors, and establishing her business, with the end goal of becoming financially sustainable. SHE first became engaged in promoting solar cooking in Mexico in 2003 after winning a "Development Marketplace" grant from the World Bank.



Left: Flora García cooks on an open fire in her kitchen in Tlacolula, Oaxaca. Right: Lorena Harp interviews Flora García, carrying out market research. Photo credit: Lorena Harp

As Lorena's market research in small Oaxacan villages was under way, **Mexico was hit with the strongest earthquake in a century**, at magnitude 8.2. Oaxaca state was devastated, with over 76 deaths and more than 11,000 homes damaged or destroyed ([The Washington Post, 2017](#)).

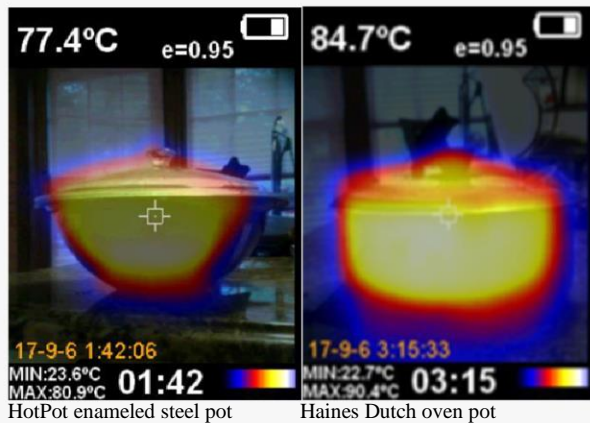


The magnitude 8.2 earthquake destroyed 11,000 homes in Oaxaca State. Community pop-up kitchens feed the homeless but fuelwood is running out. SHE is bringing relief through providing solar cookers and employment of solar cooking ambassadors in rural remote areas. Photo credit: TZINNIA CARANZA and Amigos del IAGO y del CFMAB

Thankfully, Lorena and her loved ones are safe. She is actively involved in the recovery efforts, and is eager to provide solar cookers in to those who need it the most, especially those in poor rural remote areas where the earthquake's destruction of infrastructure have made the usual cooking fuels even more inaccessible. To support this effort, you can [donate to SHE](#), specifying "Mexico earthquake victims fund" under "designation," and 100% of your contributions will go towards donating solar cookers to feed the Mexico earthquake victims.

"Truly, everything has been very difficult in the state - all the time, they find and report on more small communities that have suffered a lot of damage, that no one is supporting because of communication difficulties or lack of action from the government or citizens." - Lorena Harp

SHE conducts infrared imagery research on solar cooking pots



SHE's Director of Research, Paul Arveson, used an infrared camera to show regions where heat loss is occurring in the HotPot enameled steel pot and the Haines solar cooker Dutch oven. These are locations where the surface temperature is lowest. These regions are shown by means of a color scale on the infrared camera. In the case of the HotPot, the major source of heat loss is around the rim of the lid. The purpose of this research is to perfect pot designs to make them more solar-efficient.

SHE participates in STAR-TIDES Tech Demo



For over ten years, Solar Household Energy has participated in the STAR-TIDES (Sharing to Accelerate Research – Transformative Innovations for Development and Emergency Support) public exhibition, partnering with Solar Cookers International, and meeting with other solar cooking organizations, such as GoSun this year, whose CEO Patrick Sherwin donated a GoSun Sport to SHE for evaluation. Paul Arveson gave a 1-hour presentation on solar cooking that was attended by experts in innovative development programs with civilian and military applications. Attending STAR-TIDES has led and will continue to lead to opportunities for new projects and partnerships with major international players to bring solar cooking to those who need it the most. SHE thanks volunteers Louise Meyer, Richard Stolz, Paul Arveson and Afzal Syed for making this possible.

Solar Household Energy is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Please like us on Facebook, join our Washington, DC area solar cooking meetup group, follow us on Twitter @SolarHouseholdEnergy, and check out our website: www.solarhouseholdenergy.org

