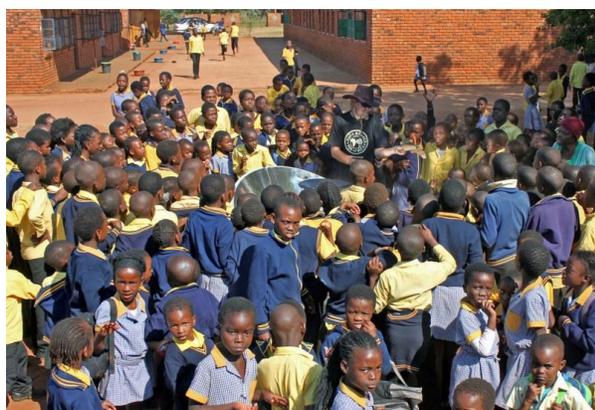


Save Our Souls Solar Caravan 2015

SunFire Solutions is a Johannesburg based company specialised in solar cooking and renewable energies. Over the past 12 years SunFire has developed a substantial community-based network. To address the lack of awareness for Solar Technologies **SunFire** has created a Travelling road show concept, "**The Save-Our-Souls Solar Caravan**". The Solar Caravan is a natural progression of our work and appropriate tool for championing sustainable development as a whole.

Micro and Macro Overview

Approximately 3 Billion people or half the world's population rely on firewood for energy to cook and boil water each day. Constant firewood collection entrenches poverty and is a prime contributor towards rapidly increasing deforestation. Communities that can no longer collect firewood live in "energy traps" reducing their ability to sustain ways of life maintained for millennia. In Africa, eco systems act as reserve banks for food, medicine and general well being. Deforestation destroys habitat of co-dependent plants, insects and small and large mammal species - exponentially compounding poverty, the energy trap and plant and animal extinction.



This burning issue affecting 3 Billion people directly and all life indirectly remains almost completely unknown about in urban centres with readily available cooking fuels, its affects and consequences are simply incomprehensible to urban dwellers used to flicking a switch to turn on the energy.

The majority of regions and communities affected by this silent and rapidly growing fuelwood crisis are by definition highly vulnerable and far from the deafening

economic and media grid and grind, remaining to all intensive purposes economically invisible, voiceless and powerless.

Recent climate change studies found that cooking fires create low hanging particles (black soot) that settle on poles and glaciers increasing melt rates as soot embedded in ice reduces its ability to reflect sunlight. Almost simultaneously the World Health Organisation released a study identifying indoor air pollution as the 4th largest killer of women and children in developing countries ahead of Malaria (mostly from lung and eye disease).

Scaling up access to clean cooking and lighting technologies is one of the simplest and most cost effective ways to immediately and directly positively impact these interrelated environmental and social issues - with huge co benefits.

SunFire Solutions has created the SOS Solar Caravan model as an appropriate response to the scale and scope of the issue. The caravan intends to co-create a globally interactive social movement for environmental justice by inviting as many people from all walks of life as possible to both physically or virtually join in and play a direct role in this multifaceted approach.



The caravan concept is designed to provide a catalyst focal point to shift the global communities' reliance and addiction on fossil fuels. It can also be a vehicle to rapidly deploy renewable technologies

to Rural African placing the tools in their hands to sustain their way of life while halting and reversing systematic poverty and environmental degradation enforced by current global "norms" and fuelled by political apathy and fossil fuel oligarchies.

Solar Lighting

There is an ever-increasing variety of good quality solar lights, many also charge mobile phones. SunFire Solutions is in contact with various companies with a view to partnering on this project. Lights can be selected and supplied according to community needs and budgets.

All technologies selected - are designed and uniquely suited to address the common and most basic challenges facing rural African communities. Most are relatively inexpensive and easily deployed relative to their social and environmental impact. Providing communities with clean cooking, lighting and water purification along with media access is a game changer. Solar Food dryers are another technology we would like to add in the near future. These technological tools accelerate and enable communities to build sustainable futures while managing, maintaining and restoring their natural environmental wealth.

The Save-Our-Souls Solar Caravan

The solar caravan is inspired by the historic salt and silk caravans that travelled Africa and Asia to Europe linking global communities with new ideas and materials. Our intention is to bring knowledge and technologies to where they are most needed. The Caravan provides a focal point to collect a globally active "social good network"

In order to achieve the caravan's goals its essential to build a global audience and following. One of the best ways to achieve this might be to ultimately emulate a reality show format, however we are happy to start in a low key way with selected partners - beaming out at least an hour of content per day or week on a dedicated YouTube channel.

Crowd funding, corporate sponsorship, angel investment and government support can all provide long-term funding for the caravan. Ideally we would like to see individual donations from viewer to households as the primary driving force fuelling the caravans work.

Viewers from around the world will be able to see where the caravan is and either virtually or physically join us for any length of time. We hope to eventually see a convoy of vehicles, expertise, technologies and knowledge - followed by an avid global audience prepared to make a real difference in real time. Keeping the time gap between community identified problems and the solutions is a key aspect to the caravan's success. Of course there are

longer-term issues such as land management, food security and housing that will require a sustained approach. Wherever possible issues that can be solved using our arsenal of solutions based technology and thinking should be addressed immediately. Immediate action will build faith and credibility in communities the caravan visits and motivate the audience that makes it possible to do more.

SunFire Solutions is currently able to offer clean cooking and lighting technologies that can be used to create small business opportunities. A successful network of small businesses can form a sustainable distribution network providing the caravan with day to day income to cover running costs while adding valuable wealth creation opportunities in rural communities.

A secondary layer to achieving the caravan's long-term goals is to establish a "community contact network" allowing physical and virtual volunteers to stay in touch and monitor community project developments. This "community contact network" also provides a platform for volunteers to come and work on longer term projects in any timeframe.

Essentially the caravan is a conduit for the rapid uptake of sustainable development technologies and philosophies. Combining Tourism and Volunteerism can potentially create an alternate revenue stream keeping the Caravan rolling. The Caravans over arching goal is to cultivate a real world cultural exchange and mutual understanding of challenges facing us as a global community. This element alone is a win-win situation for everybody involved.

Over time we hope to attract specialised personnel to the caravan acting as an eco-SWAT team that deals with issues and challenges highlighted in community interviews. At the same time a virtual "council of excellence" made up of individuals or companies happy to donate their time and knowledge to solving community identified issues will assist the team on the ground.

Community issues do not operate in silos making it vital to build multi-skilled teams to address issues as they arise. As an example, micro finance and alternative trading can play a vital role in unlocking human potential in communities with massive under employment. We are only limited by our skills and imagination and to some extent funding, local materials and knowledge will be used and positively reinforced as much as possible.

This project is in essence a global experiment to generate interest and create fertile grounds for real and sustained changes. Once we have proven the model in South Africa the next natural step is to create a caravan for each neighbouring country in Southern Africa.

The caravan provides a "fun channel" to tackle and unlock some of the biggest challenges and obstacles facing rural communities in Africa and our Global eco systems as a whole. Making it look like fun is a vital component as too often environmental issues seem overwhelming breeding apathy and despondency while in reality infinitely practical solutions are at hand.

The Caravan is a tool to set Southern Africa on the road to long term prosperity while offering an opportunity for the global audience to interact with and thereby restore faith in humanity and our collective ability to solve seemingly insurmountable problems unique to each Continent but applicable to humanity as a whole.

Our Slogan "together we can make it work"