

SCOUTS GO SOLAR

NEWSLETTER JAN – DEC 2022



A collaboration between the World Organization of the Scouts Movement and Solafrica



Figure 1: Discussing about the energy consumption of a household and how to reduce it, as part of the international solar training at KISC. Quite a challenge, especially if the members of the group are from three different continents and from completely different contexts. July 2022

While the year 2021 has been marked by heavy restrictions and online activities, in 2022, in many places it was possible to slowly return to face-to-face in Scouting. Several ideas that had come up in this time could now be put into practice. But also big events could take place, such as National Jamborees in Portugal, Greece and Switzerland, to mention only a few of them.

With this second edition of the Scouts go Solar newsletter 2022, we would like to make visible a selection out of the wide range of Scouts Go Solar activities that have been implemented all over the world in 2022, as part of the Earth Tribe Initiative in WOSM. And it's also to say "Thank you very much" to all the people who move this project forward, who spread the word and who bring solar energy to their communities. It's amazing to see how Scouts Go Solar is growing and how more and more National Scouts Organizations incorporate this educational challenge, so more people can benefit from the energy of the sun.

FUTURE EVENTS

March 2023

Regional Scouts Go Solar training in Kenya:

In order to decentralize the international solar trainings at KISC, there will be a first regional training for Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors from the Africa region, in Kenya.

Second half of 2023

Regional Scouts Go Solar training in Latin America:

The second regional solar training will take place in Latin America, to train new Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors from the America region. More details will follow later.

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January

I. ARTICLE AT THE SCOUT MAGAZINE IN SWITZERLAND

“Sarasani”, the members’ magazine of the National Scout Organization of Switzerland, published an article about the second part of the Scouts Go Solar online training of 2021/22. Due to the COVID situation and the travel restrictions, it had not been possible to complete the theoretical first part of the training (which had been held online) with the practical second part face-to-face at KISC, so we switched to the online channel, as well. Even so, it was possible to pass on most of the theoretical and also practical inputs in this way.



Figure 2: The funny movements of the people in the picture represent the actual weather in their places – from bright sunlight to heavy rain, January 2022

2. SOLARIZING A FISHING COMMUNITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

In October 2021, EC Villanueva from the Philippines had finished the training sessions to become a Scouts Go Solar Ambassador. The last part of this learning journey consisted in planning and implementing a solar project. He decided to do a community project in a fishing community on the small Silaki Island in the Philippines, far off the electricity grid. After talking to the authorities of the village, his NSO and other people involved, he started planning his project: The installation of solar streetlamps in this village and solar lamps in the households.

A team of volunteers (several of them trained within the Scouts Go Solar project) from the mainland and from the island worked together to install four streetlights and solar lamps for 55 households. This was

combined with a local awareness campaign about renewable energies and a workshop about the functioning, maintenance and troubleshooting for these solar devices. On the one hand, the new solar lamps can replace the expensive kerosene lamps with negative impact on people’s health, and on the other hand, they allow the children to study even after sunset, as they often help their parents with fishing during the day.



Figure 3: Scouts and local youth installing together a solar streetlight, January 2022

February

3. A SOLAR SYSTEM FOR A SCOUT CENTRE IN ZIMBABWE

The Gordon Scout Park, located inside the Matobo National Park in Zimbabwe, is relying on a 60-year-old diesel generator for electricity. As diesel is quite expensive and must be brought from far away, it works only about three hours per day. This Scout Centre is frequently used for trainings and other activities by Scouts and non-Scouts. The new Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Sydney Mayerwa elaborated a project for this Scout Centre, consisting of a training about solar energy and installing a solar system. Together with his team of trained Scouts and local electricians, he has already been able to implement the training. Among the participants were local Scouts as well as local leaders and youth.

The installation of the solar system, which will provide the Gordon Scout Park with electricity all around

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the clock and serve as inspiration for the people living nearby or using the Centre for their activities, is planned for the first half of 2023.



Figure 4: The participants of the training learn how a solar suitcase works and how it can be used, February 2022

March

4. SOLAR ARTISTS AT WORK IN ARGENTINA

After they had started with solar cooking in 2020, the Scout Group Lijra Suyay from Argentina went on



Figure 5: Two of the solar artists at work, March 2022

working with solar energy and learning more about its uses. In their camp, the participants became real craftspeople when they started decorating wooden cups with magnifying glasses and the light of the sun. Who said that solar art always needs to be done on plain wooden boards?

5. BUILDING SOLAR OVENS IN BRAZIL

In the southern part of Brazil, the cub Scouts of the Scout Group Escoteiro Ximbandue 21 built their own solar ovens from recycled materials. By working together as a team, they could construct their so-called box cookers out of cardboard, aluminium foil and glue. They could hardly wait to test their creations and prepare a delicious dish with their self-made ovens.



Figure 6: Helping each other to make a fancy box cooker out of recycled materials, March 2022

6. LAUNCH OF THE SGS EXPERIMENTS DATABASE ON FACEBOOK

Several of the “classic” Scouts Go Solar experiments have been implemented all over the world for several years now. But as every context is different, there have been lots of adaptations, improvements, use of different materials etc. The best way to bring all these ideas together and share them with a wider public is the use of an online database. In March, there was the official launch of the Scouts Go Solar Experiments, as part of the Facebook page of Earth Tribe Community (in the “Guides” section). In the live session that marked the official start of this initiative, the project leader Monse López and the solar expert Mitch Götz explained how the platform works and how the experiments will be presented. To ensure proper dissemination of each experiment, this database shall be updated bi-monthly and keep sharing ideas, experiments and video instructions with you.

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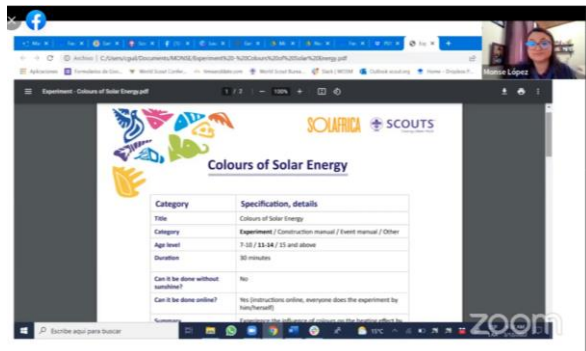


Figure 7: Presenting the first experiment on the database, March 2022

April

7. DISTRIBUTION OF SOLAR LAMPS IN KENYA

In Kenya, the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Rhodah Ndegwa continued her project of distributing solar lamps to the less fortunate members of society. These lamps allow them to have light at night so they can work or also study after sunset, without having to pay for electricity or kerosene for other kinds of lamps.



Figure 8: Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Rhodah explaining the functioning and maintenance of a solar lamp to local women, April 2022

8. SWITZERLAND: HOW TO BUILD A SOLAR COOKER

In the "Do-it-yourself"-section of the members' magazine of the Swiss National Scout Organization, we were invited to publish the instructions on how to build a Copenhagen solar cooker. All you need for this is cardboard, aluminium foil, glue, two wooden

boards, string and some basic tools. If you're interested to build one by yourself, please let us know so we can send you the instructions in English.



Figure 9: Step-by-step instructions to get your own solar cooker

9. LAMP SOLDERING IN NORTH MACEDONIA

The Scout patrol Mercati from North Macedonia had the opportunity to join a solar workshop with the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Igor Stanojkov. The main activity consisted in soldering solar lamps, which contain all the basic components of a mini photovoltaic system: a solar panel, a battery, a switch and an LED as consumer, as well as the cables to connect all the parts in the right order. After some background information, understanding the electrical circuit and being aware of the security instructions, the participants soldered the lamps and incorporated them into plastic bottles, which served as lamp shades, protective case and decoration at the same time.



Figure 10: Soldering cables to the main board to close the circuit and make the lamps work, April 2022

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10. TRAINING FOR SCOUT WORKING GROUPS ALL OVER ARGENTINA

On the 9th and 10th of April, representatives of the Community Management Centres (“Centros de Gestión Comunitaria”) from all over Argentina met to participate in a training about Scouts Go Solar and Plastic Tide Turners. In this hands-on training, the participants got to know and tried out many different experiences that they will be replicating at their community centres. Among these activities were colours of the sun, solar cooking and solar art, but also the Energy Card Game, which helps to analyse the energy consumption of electrical tools in the household.



Figure 11: A participant calculating the energy consumption of the tools in her household, April 2022

May

11. SOLAR WORKSHOP IN AN OFF-GRID CAMPSITE IN ZIMBABWE

From the 27th to 29th of May, about 25 participants joined a solar workshop at the Salamis campsite, far off the electricity grid. The group of university students, school teachers and members of the Girl Guides Association, among others, learned more about different aspects of solar energy and its uses, for example by preparing a meal with solar cookers. As the campsite had no electricity, it was a good opportunity to learn in practice about measures for saving energy and how to implement them in their daily life. For lighting at night and for charging the phones during the day, a solar suitcase was used. The trainers – the Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors Paddington Johannes and Syndey Mayerwa, the provincial Scout Commissioner and their team – were very happy about the response from most participants who committed

to starting using electricity differently, by incorporating good choices they have learnt and by sharing the tips with their friends, family and communities.



Figure 12: Enjoying a solar lunch between the workshops, May 2022

12. INTRODUCTION WORKSHOP TO SOLAR ENERGY IN MARSABIT COUNTY, KENYA



Figure 13: Introduction workshop for a nomad community in Kenya, May 2022

In the north of Kenya, the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Rhodah Ndegwa and her team organized a solar introduction workshop for a community of nomadic livestock farmers living in this semi-arid area. The more than 100 local people who attended this session were amazed to learn how the intense sunlight can be used for cooking and what a big difference a small solar lamp can make. In order to overcome the language barrier, the team of trainers relied on an interpreter who spoke the local language and was able to pass the message on to the numerous public. In a tour through the community, Rhodah and her team were able to learn more about the way of life of these

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people and, supported by the community leader, could hand over solar lamps to the families who needed it most.

13. ADVICE ON HOW TO SAVE ENERGY IN AN ONLINE SESSION FROM GUATEMALA

In the Facebook live session “Solarízate” (Go solar), the Guatemalan Scout and member of the national SGS committee of this country, Jessenia Sam, gave some useful advice on how to save energy in everyday life. In many cases, it’s not a big change that is needed, but it can have quite an impact. Another interesting topic that she mentioned and that she complemented with a live instruction for the audience to join, is the so called SODIS method to purify drinking water, by using nothing more than a transparent plastic bottle and the light of the sun.

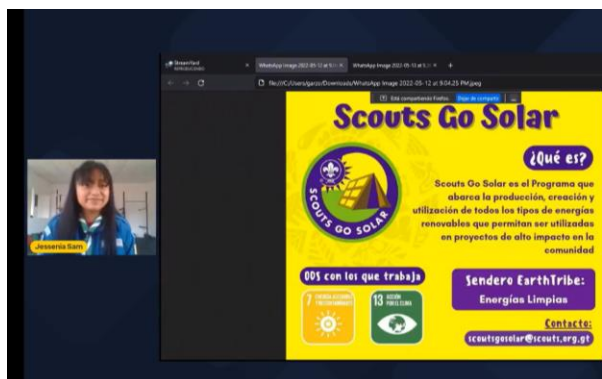


Figure 14: Screenshot of the online sessions about Scouts Go Solar and useful advice how to save energy, May 2022

14. INTRODUCTION TO SGS FOR NEW MEMBERS OF THE BETTER WORLD FRAMEWORK IN KENYA

At the beginning of May, there was an introduction session for the new rovers of the Better World Framework Kenya, taking place at the Kaiyaba Scouts Centre. One of the trainers was the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Rhodah Ndegwa, who gave the new volunteers an introduction to the contents and activities of Scouts Go Solar, which forms part of the Earth Tribe Initiative.



Figure 15: Rhodah with the group of new volunteers, May 2022

June

15. SOLAR TRAINING IN WESTERN THAILAND

On the 25th and 26th of June, the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Chansak Sanguankiatissuk did a Scouts Go Solar training for 36 kids at the Wangdum Mountain Camp in Kanchanburi, in the western part of Thailand. Among the activities were the SODIS water disinfection, different types of sundials, colours of the sun, and many others. And of course that Chansak would not miss his speciality, the solar cooking.



Figure 16: Chansak explaining the water disinfection with sunlight, June 2022

16. INSTALLATION OF SOLAR TYRE INFLATORS IN MALAYSIA

The Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Dr. Mustafa Ibrahim and a team of the Malaysia University Rovers Group from the University Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia are convinced that solar energy can be used for more than “just” for cooking or heating water. So why not

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build an air compressor powered by solar energy? Therefore, they installed two solar tyre inflation stations on the university campus, giving students, university staff and the general public the possibility to inflate their bicycle or motorcycle tyres by this solar-powered compressors.



Figure 17: Installation of the solar panels on the roof above the air compressor, June 2022

17. SOLAR MEALS AT A COOKING COMPETITION IN ZIMBABWE

How can you get people interested in solar cooking? By letting them try it out, thought the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Paddington Johannes, when he and his team participated with solar cookers in the local Scouts' cooking competition. Even if the weather was a little bit cloudy, they managed to prepare cereal and noodle dishes on the larger parabolic cooker, while the smaller Copenhagen cookers were used for making chocolate biscuits. Even if they didn't win the competition, they were able to prove: Solar cooking works!



Figure 18: Different types of solar cookers

18. INTERNATIONAL SCOUTS GO SOLAR TRAINING AT KISC, IN SWITZERLAND



Figure 19: The group of participants and trainers at KISC, with the typical SGS sunglasses, July 2022

After two years of online training, it was finally possible to hold this year's international Scouts Go Solar training face-to-face at KISC again. In this event, hosted by Solafrica, WOSM and the Kandersteg International Scout Centre, Scout leaders from Honduras, Guatemala, Ecuador, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Australia, Singapore, Greece, Portugal and Poland came to Switzerland to participate in the 10-days programme to become Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors. In a very international setting, they did not only learn how to build a solar suitcase, a solar air conditioning and a solar box cooker, but also how to calculate the energy potential of a roof, how to plan and implement a solar project and how to do advocacy for renewable energies. Apart from the input sessions, there was also time for exchanging experiences from very different contexts, ideas how to adapt the activities and, of course, trying them out in practise. As final part of their Scouts Go Solar Ambassador training, they will put into practice what they have learnt and implement their own Scouts Go Solar projects in their countries, in coordination and with the support of the National Scouts Organizations. We are very much looking forward to inform about these projects in the next Scouts Go Solar Newsletter!

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Figure 20: Héctor from Guatemala showing a solar beeper. Next to it, a fancy solar air conditioning, July 2022

19. SGS WORKSHOPS AT PUBLIC HOLIDAY GATHERINGS IN NYERI COUNTY, KENYA



Figure 21: Scouts, public officials and local people visiting the solar stand, built up at the festivities on a public holiday, July 2022

The Kenyan Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Rhodah Ndegwa and her team realized a lot of different activities, also in Nyeri County: They did Scouts Go Solar workshops at schools and the local Scout Centre, but also used local soccer tournaments and the festivities on a public holiday to build up a stand and inform the interested public about Scouts Go Solar. The parabolic cookers, the smell of fresh popcorn made by sunlight, but also the other experiments and tools that were on display caught the attention of the people passing by. Also some public officials visited to the stand and were informed about the project and its contents.

20. CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT IN SOUTHERN BRAZIL

In the scout activities between the 6th and the 24th of June, the cub scouts from the group “Gralha Azul – Aracária” from the state of Paraná in the southern part of Brazil treated the topic of sustainable energies. After learning more about the different sources of energy and how they can be used sustainably, they turned the somehow abstract theory in something tangible: By building model houses and explaining different measures of how to produce renewable energy and how to make sure not to spoil it. A window in the roof to have daylight and natural heating during the day, solar panels to produce electricity, a clothesline to dry your clothes by sunlight and not with an energy-consuming tumble dryer etc. etc.



Figure 22: A house model with different measures to save energy, July 2022

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July

21. SCOUTS GO SOLAR TRAINING IN CENTRAL THAILAND

From the 17th to the 20th of July, the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador from Thailand, Chansak Sanguankiat-tisuk, implemented a Scouts Go Solar training with 60 Scouts from the Central region of Thailand. Before they received their course certificate in the end, they learned a lot about solar energy, how it works and how it can be used. They tried out a new and very interesting construction: the Solar Barbecue, made from chips cans, plastic wrap and wooden sticks, perfect to prepare sausages.



Figure 23: Different methods of solar cooking. On the top left, the solar barbecue, July 2022

22. INTRODUCTION WORKSHOP TO SOLAR ENERGY IN SIAYA COUNTY, KENYA

The third county where the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Rhodah and her team did a solar workshop was Siaya, in the southwestern part of Kenya. They talked about the SDGs, presented Earth Tribe and explained how solar energy works and how it can be used in everyday life. In the second part, some practical experiences from other projects were exchanged. There is a lot of potential, and that's why the idea arose to foster the collaboration among the different Scout Centres or even to do an exchange programme for rover Scouts from different parts of the country. The future will tell what is possible.



Figure 24: There goes the sun at the workshop in Siaya county, July 2022

23. SOLAR WORKSHOPS AT THE SWISS NATIONAL JAMBOREE



Figure 25: Using light fibres between the controller and the darkened glasses, the "player" can direct his "Solar Mario" to collect fruits, July 2022

Every 14 years, there is a National Jamboree in Switzerland. This time, it was a huge camp of more than 30'000 Scouts that took place in the southern part of the country, in the Goms region. As part of the programme, the Scout groups had the possibility to join solar workshops that were offered by the team of the newly launched country programme for Scouts Go

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Solar in Switzerland. Among the trainers was also the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador from Morocco, Oumayma Belfakih, sharing her experiences from solar activities in other contexts. The participants could try out several new experiments like the laser flipper, the Solar Mario and the energy memory. The whole workshop was embedded in the camp's theme, using the corresponding characters to lead the participants through the stations dedicated to different aspects of solar energy.

August

24. REFINED SOLAR EXPERIMENTS IN BRAZIL

From the 12th to the 14th of August, the Scout group Santos Dumont from Ceará, Brazil, had its annual Scout camp. Apart from celebrating their 10th anniversary, they also included some classic and several refined solar experiments. Among the innovations are the sundial made from a plastic bottle and the digital solar clock printed in 3D. And for the solar car race, they used small cars that they have assembled by themselves. The more than 70 Scouts between 7 and 21 years had much fun and learned a lot with the hands-on experiences.



Figure 26: A young Scout trying out the new types of sundials (digital and within a plastic bottle), August 2022

25. "SCOUT FOR A DAY" IN BRAZIL

In the Scouts Centre for Excellence, Nature and Sustainability (SCENES) Goiás in Brazil, a very special event took place on the 13th of August. A group of 16 young people and their parents, who are part of the Army Reserve Officers Association in Goiânia, were invited to get to know Scouting and to become "Scouts

for a day". They had the opportunity to learn more about Scouts Go Solar and to try out different experiments like the solar grasshopper race, the solar fountain and the solar cooker. If they liked this introduction, they hopefully will become Scouts for more than just a day...

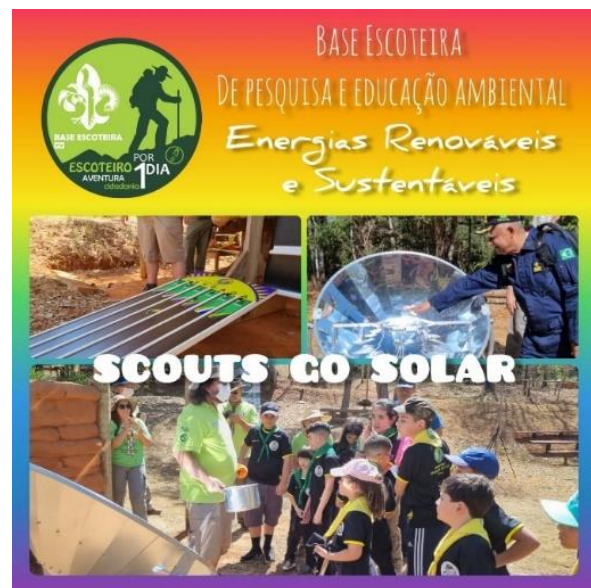


Figure 27: An insight on the activities that were part of the "Scout for a Day" programme, August 2022

September

26. SGS-STAND AT THE INNOVATION HUB EXHIBITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE



Figure 28: Discussions about solar energy in everyday life, at the Innovations Hub of the University of Zimbabwe, September 2022

Since a couple of years, the University of Zimbabwe in the capital Harare is working on so called Innovation Hubs, which means that their students should get inspired, go ahead with new ideas and learn how to put

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into practise what they have learnt. For the Innovation Hub Exposition that took place in the end of September, the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Paddington Johannes and a group of university students, who have been trained earlier in a solar camp, were invited. They presented different ways of how to move from non-renewable energy sources to solar and how this has an impact on the planet. There were a lot of interesting discussions and new ideas that turned up.

27. SOLAR SCHOOL IN NORTH MACEDONIA

From the 22nd to the 24th of August, the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Stevan Popovski and his team have organised a so called Solar School for 20 participants from different parts of the country. In these three days, they learnt more about the different uses of the sunlight, for example for cooking, heating and producing electricity. One of the experiments that they tried out is the solar collector for heating water, made from recycled plastic bottles.



Figure 29: A self-made solar collector with and without a plastic cover against the wind, August 2022

October

28. DO IT YOURSELF ACTIVITIES AT THE JOTA/JOTI

From the 14th to the 16th of October, the 65th edition of the international Jamboree on the Air / on the Internet took place. Among the different live sessions and activities was also Scouts go Solar, offering two activities that everybody can do at home, with not much material: The “colours of solar energy” experiment, where you can see how the colour has an effect on the absorption of light and the generation of heat. The second one was how to build and use a solar box cooker. Made from cardboard or wood, aluminium foil and transparent plastic, this tiny little greenhouse

is perfect to prepare bread, cakes and cookies, using the power of the sun.

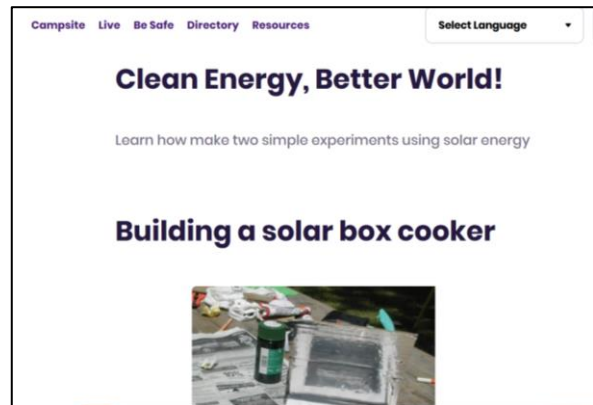


Figure 30: Extract of the do it yourself instruction to build a solar box cooker, October 2022

29. STATE LEVEL SCOUT MEETING WITH SGS WORKSHOP IN MALAYSIA



Figure 31: If 250 participants want to play at the same time, it's quite a good idea to have several race tracks (for grasshopper race, solar car race and solar sumo), October 2022

From the 7th to the 9th of October, more than 350 cub scouts, scouters and rovers from the whole state of Selangor came together for their annual scout meeting. This time, the main topic was Scouts Go Solar, presented by the new Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Jimmy Teh. In a wide variety of experiments, they were able to experience the power of the sun. With this number of people at once, also the amount of material needed to go to the next level. Among many other activities, the participants had the opportunity to do a grasshopper race, with 16 grasshoppers parallel at the same time! Or 18 solar cars racing against each other, while others measured their forces at the solar sumo, trying to focus the sunlight on their solar animal and pushing the others out of the ring.

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30. INSTALLATION OF A SOLAR SYSTEM IN A RURAL SCHOOL IN ZIMBABWE

The Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors Paddington Johannes and Sydney Mayerwa and their team of Solar Innovators were extremely busy this year. Apart from many workshops in very different places, they also spend one weekend in October in a small school in the countryside of the Masvingo Province, in the south-eastern part of Zimbabwe, where they combined the installation of a 800W solar system at the roof of the rural school with a solar training for local people and scouts. In this activity, they were supported and accompanied by the Scout Commissioners of two provinces and also the Chief Commissioner for Zimbabwe.

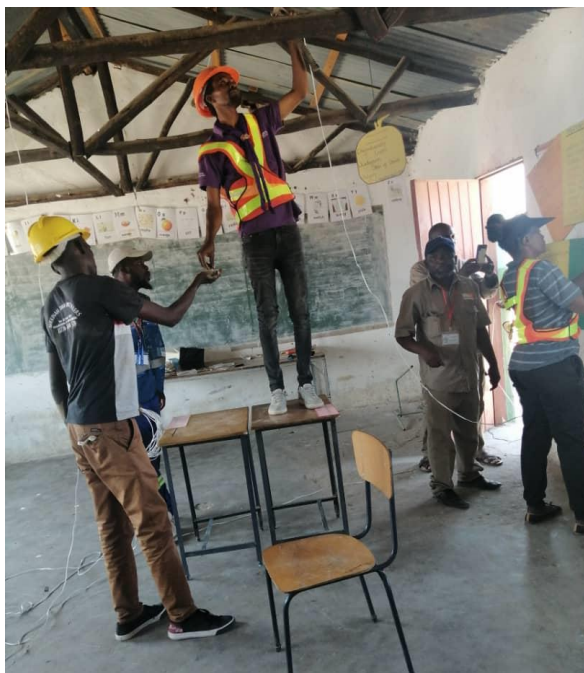


Figure 32: Paddington Johannes and his team installing the cables and connections of the solar system, October 2022

November

31. SGS RECOGNITION CEREMONY IN ARGENTINA

In the province of Buenos Aires in Argentina, the scout group San José Obrero has been working on the programme of Scouts Go Solar since 2018. After learning how to build a solar cooker and using it to

cook eggs, how to create art with lenses and wooden cups and many other activities, the members of this group now received their recognition elements, consisting of a diploma and the insignia. Congratulations!



Figure 33: The merit badges are sewn to the scout uniforms, November 2022

32. SGS ROADSHOWS IN BOTSWANA

In November and December, the Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Bonny Bathai and his team travelled to Makalamabedi in the north and to Nata in the centre of Botswana, both rural areas, to implement so called Solar Roadshows and SGS workshops. At the schools, where these events took part, the scouts and other members of the communities had the opportunity to see and try out different solar experiments and gadgets. They were really grateful that the team had made this long way to give them an insight about solar energy and Scouts Go Solar.



Figure 34: Presenting a solar suitcase, a solar fountain, solar art and many other experiments and gadgets as part of the Solar Roadshow, November 2022

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33. SOLAR INNOVATORS TRAINING IN ZIMBABWE

In the beginning of November, a mixed group of scouts and non-scouts participated at an intensive Solar Innovators training at the St. Joseph's Primary School in Rusape, in the eastern part of Zimbabwe. As most of the participants were adults, the training was much more technical than in a "sun fun camp". Therefore, one of the learning objectives was that each and every participant knows how to install an independent solar system on a roof. But of course, not everything was studying, measuring and calculating, there was also time enough for fun experiments like solar art etc. Because not only kids and young people like a good mix of learning and fun...



Figure 35: Example of a solar system, November 2022

December

34. BUILDING SOLAR OVENS IN BRAZIL

The cub scouts from the group "Alcateia Flor Vermelha" from the province of Santa Catarina in the deep south of Brazil learned how to build and how to use a solar box cooker or solar oven. Using a special design for the reflectors, they found out how the sunlight, an almost interminable source of energy, can be used to prepare food.



Figure 36: Solar box cookers with a special design of the reflectors, December 2022

35. NEW MODEL OF SUNDIALS AT SGS WORKSHOP IN MALAYSIA

On the 8th of December, the Solar Ambassador Dr. Mustaffa Ibrahim and his team, from Malaysia, organized a Scouts go Solar workshop for 120 cub scouts. Among the various activities as solar cooking, solar sumo and "colours of the sun", the participants could also try out solar racing cars that they had assembled by themselves. Another very interesting development was the elaboration of a new version of the sundial, made from one half of a cardboard plate and a triangle made from cardboard. This looks very nice and it would be interesting to test if this model works also for other latitudes. But most important: The kids had fun and learned a lot about solar energy.



Figure 37: Young scouts with the new model of the sundial, December 2022

The Scouts go Solar Educational Challenge is part of the Earth Tribe Initiative



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