

S.T.E.V.E.N.

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Sustainable Technology and Energy for Vital Economic Needs

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N E W S L E T T E R 2 0 1 5

GREETINGS! Along with our wishes for Good Health and Good Work to all friends in the appropriate technology community, here is the belated S.T.E.V.E.N. Foundation Newsletter for 2015 – likely the last annual newsletter for some time, as we embark on a hiatus.

HIATUS: With the increasing age of some members of the board – Jaroslav Vanek will soon be age 86 – we considered whether the time has come to wind down the work of S.T.E.V.E.N. Foundation. Instead, the board decided for a “hiatus” period, during which we are certainly willing to share our expertise, but do not undertake major new projects. The annual newsletter will be discontinued for the time being. This state of things will no doubt be revisited in late 2016. Meantime, our fellow advocates of solar and other sustainable energy are welcome to come to us with questions or to share their findings and successes. We want to remain part of this community; and we wish all who read this success in working for sustainable energy and protection of our planet earth.

Furthermore, we will continue to interact with the solar oven project at Cornell University under the direction of the Engineers for a Sustainable World program. The ESW project continues to interact with colleagues from the Universidad Nacional de Ingenieria and Mujeres Solares de Totogalpa in Nicaragua, including an annual visit for technical collaboration.

MYLAR DISTRIBUTION: At its annual meeting on November 20, 2015, the S.T.E.V.E.N. Foundation board assessed the results of its major project for the year: free distribution of up to 20 square feet of aluminized Mylar plastic film, also with shipping free of charge in USA. With our own publicity and help from Solar Cookers International, we received dozens of requests, and were able to send out 32 rolls of the plastic, to just about every corner of the country. We also received a number of requests from overseas, but these we had to decline because of the high cost of shipping [save for one person in Australia who was willing to shoulder the expense].

Executing the Mylar project has largely exhausted our supply of the material. We retain some for the other major activity of S.T.E.V.E.N. in recent years – partnering with engineering students at Cornell University who have been working with a women’s group in Nicaragua, the “Mujeres Solares de

Totogalpa.” These solar ladies have been promoting solar cooking by building the cookers and teaching others to do so; also by operating a solar restaurant near the Pan American Highway in their district.

As an indication of the type of projects that are possible, below we show a solar oven built using the Mylar for the reflective panels, being demonstrated to school-age children in the Ithaca area in summer of 2015. Steven Vanek, builder of this particular oven, is explaining it to the audience assembled. Also included is a photo with two types of ovens: on the left, the self-built oven with mirrorized Mylar for the reflector, and on the right a manufactured solar oven from Sun Ovens International.

