



Solar Energy Education and Demonstration

SolarSeedProject.Org

July 2020

Update on our work in Haiti and the US

Greetings from SEED, and I hope you and your family and friends are happy, healthy, and safe. The pandemic has limited our ability to work on projects in both the US and overseas, but we have not given up and today I'm sending an update on our progress.

Fixing the Solar System in Desab

Even before the virus hit, the situation in Haiti had gotten pretty bad, with political unrest, demonstrations, and protests throughout the country. The price of gasoline shot up to over \$10 per gallon and the people blamed the government. It continued to get worse and many of the stores and schools were closed, and people were having a hard time finding food and feeling safe. My friends who live in Port-Au-Prince told me they were not leaving their house and they were rationing their food.

Meanwhile, the solar system we installed in the medical clinic in Desab (thanks to your support!) needed attention. I was hoping the unrest in the country would improve so I could return to fix the system, but things did not improve and the US Dept of State issued a "Do Not Travel" warning, even before the virus.

Then the virus started to hit and it became clear we would not be traveling to Haiti for quite some time. We became even more concerned because the clinic had no electricity, which could be vital if the virus spread to rural communities, knowing how fragile the health care system in Haiti is already. So I started exploring any possible way we could repair the solar system without visiting Haiti.



Medical clinic in Desab, Haiti

Then I remembered Arthur Guillaume, who was there when we installed the system two years ago. He had expressed interest in the system and also had experience working with electricity. I was able to contact him and he was eager to help us get the system up and running again. I found a way to wire him some gas money to get to Desab (about an hour from his home), first to diagnose the problem. We communicated through text messages and he sent photos, and together we determined that the inverter had failed.



Many thanks to Arthur Guillaume

Over the next couple of weeks I searched and found a solar dealer in Port-Au-Prince who was able to work with us. They had an inverter there in stock and I was able to pay for it from here. I sent Arthur some more money for gas so he could drive to Port-Au-Prince, pick up the inverter, and then go to Desab and install it.

Arthur was amazing! He drove all over Haiti, picked up the new inverter, and installed it. *The great news I have to report today is that the medical clinic has electricity again!* Thanks to your support and Arthur's great work, there is now electricity again for the lights, fans, refrigerators, centrifuge, and other lab equipment that enables the clinic staff to test for malaria, HIV, anemia, and other conditions. They're also using the electricity to show health-related educational videos in the waiting room.

Please know that none of this would have been possible without your financial support. We are very frugal with our expenditures and we had enough left over from our last trip to pay for the equipment, gas money, and everything Arthur needed, without having to start a new fundraising drive, which would have delayed everything. I want to add that our great friend Fenel Jean also played an important role in all of this. For more photos and storyline about our installation in Desab [click here](#).

Solar system in Duchity is working great

The solar system we installed on a school in Duchity last year is operating perfectly. We are in communication with people who check on it regularly and it has had no problems. The school is in full session and the electricity is being used for computers, lights, and more.



Installing solar panels on a school in Duchity, Haiti

Continuing work in the US

SEED continues to partner with the [Solar Bus](#) in the US to visit schools and public events to teach and demonstrate the uses of solar energy. This spring has been difficult because of the pandemic. Normally during Earth Week, we're busy visiting schools but this year there were virtually no Earth Day celebrations at schools for obvious reasons. However, the Solar Bus is up and running after a winter of hibernation and we are preparing to have more solar-powered music concerts this summer with [The Fog](#) and other bands.



Michael Moore's disappointing new film about renewable energy

You may have heard about, or seen, Michael Moore's new film *Planet of the Humans*, which goes to great length to criticize the solar energy industry. We viewed this film with an open mind but found it to be full of inaccurate, outdated, and biased information. Very disappointing, considering it came from Michael Moore. We are preparing a video that debunks many of the statements in the film.

Thanks again for your support and encouragement. We continue our mission both here and abroad to teach people how to utilize the abundant clean energy that comes from the sun.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Beckwith".

Gary Beckwith
Director, Solar Energy Education and Demonstration

Solar Energy Education and Demonstration is a 501c-3 non-profit organization.

All donations go directly our projects.

To donate or learn more see our website SolarSEEDProject.Org.
