



# Uganda california solar energy

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Increasing Energy Access through Off-Grid Solar Solutions: USEA Annual Report ...

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CAL-RAE and New Sun Road deliver solar power from Oakland to Uganda Joshua Chin on April 30, 2015

A solar micro grid, now being shipped in pieces, will arrive in Uganda early June. Once assembled on site, it is designed to carry enough energy to power around 20 businesses and homes on Kitobo, a fishing island.

"Most of the locals' electricity is delivered to the wealthy," said Jalel Sager, a PhD candidate studying in the Energy & Resources Group, an interdisciplinary graduate program at UC Berkeley. "We are going to replace the expensive and noisy diesel generators with our innovation."

Along with his colleague Austin Cappon, Sager is the co-founder of California-Renewable and Adaptive Energy (CAL-RAE), an organization that seeks to secure social benefits in developing nations. CAL-RAE also branched out and formed New Sun Road, a benefit corporation based in Oakland, that delivers energy services globally.

"Oakland is a great place for us because there's a fair amount of warehouse space available to us--our dream is now to find some reasonable new digs where we can test, manufacture, and grow," Sager said. "We also like exporting from Oakland--it feels good to produce things here that we believe in and send them abroad to people who need and want them."

By utilizing the resources from both CAL-RAE and New Sun Road, Sager's team traveled to Uganda last December and interviewed dozens of villagers living in poor conditions.

"People in Kitobo are lively and are keen to adopt urban lifestyles," said Andrew Ssentongo, a social entrepreneur and one of Sager's close collaborators in Uganda. With a population of around 4,000 people, the vibrant fishing villages of the Ssesse islands of Lake Victoria feature an abundance of small businesses such as hair salons, barbershops and DVD rental stores, said Ssentongo in an email interview.



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