

SOLAR PV TRAINING KIT, A NOVEL COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM IN KENYA

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In order to address the perennial problem of lack of knowledge on solar pv systems and sizing during installation, the Solar Energy Group (SEG) of the Department of Physics, University of Nairobi has developed a novel solar pv training kit as part of its community outreach program. The kit consists of two solar modules (different sizes), wooden block board, one deep cycle battery, charge controller, dc-ac inverter and various wiring components. The outreach program entails teaching majority non-physicist or anyone interested in doing DIY PV installation on the basic theory of photovoltaics systems, wiring, pv mounting and configurations, storage of batteries, power conditioning, pv appliances, maintenance and commissioning.

This is a novel idea which is benefitting the community in a number of ways, example, mobile charging in rural area, lighting for homes and schools, hospitals and shopping centres and the people are appreciating science. The outreach program has become very popular within the region; the trainees come from as far as DR Congo, Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania.

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