

LIGHTS FOR LEARNING

- a facilitated STEM education program



Designed by educators, aligned with ACARA, and mapped to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, students will learn about extreme energy poverty - experienced by 789 million people around the world. They will explore the role of renewable energy in helping to combat the four pillars of disadvantage associated with energy poverty education, health, environment, and economics.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This immersive learning experience starts with a compelling presentation, followed by the assembly of SolarBuddy lights, and finally making a connection with the recipients of the completed solar lights through writing a letter to accompany their gift. Students will be guided through this journey to global citizenship by Origin's volunteers, who will share their knowledge of renewable technologies and real-world experience of STEM (science, technology, engineering, maths), including its potential humanitarian impact. Our volunteers are Origin employees from across the business and have been trained in delivering this program Designed for children, the assembled SolarBuddy lights are easy to operate, carry and charge. Without them, remote communities rely on dangerous and unsustainable sources of fuel like kerosene, diesel, wood or candles. The lights assembled by students at your school will help children from remote communities in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu to study safely when the sun goes down, improving their prospects of using education to break the cycle of poverty, and protecting their health.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

789 million people globally don't have access to electricity. Energy poverty causes catastrophic health, environmental and economic outcomes and greatly limits children's learning potential. SolarBuddy's evaluation study shows that students are studying up to 78% longer with a solar light, their families are less dependent on toxic fuels like diesel and kerosene and are spending less on expensive lighting like candles and batteries as well as decreasing their CO2 emissions. Australian children tell us they feel good about doing something positive for those less fortunate, at the same time developing capabilities in accordance with the Australian Curriculum:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Personal and social capability
- Ethical understanding
- Intercultural understanding

"I feel so special that I'm in this class and able to help people overseas in Papua New Guinea who aren't as privileged as us, and I'm just so thankful I can help them today."

Heather, Year 6 - Narangba Valley Primary



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The Lights for Learning program is run by Origin's philanthropic arm, the <u>Origin Energy Foundation</u>. We've partnered with <u>SolarBuddy</u>, an Australianbased non-profit organisation working to improve the educational opportunities of children throughout the South Pacific, South East Asia and Africa, by distributing portable solar lights. The Origin Energy Foundation will fund up to 50 lights to be assembled by students at your school, allowing up to 150 students to participate in the program free of charge. Additional lights can be purchased by your school, if required.

WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL PROVIDE?

Volunteer presenters will need access to audio-visual equipment and preferably the Internet. Students should have a flat surface on which to assemble the lights and write letters – preferably seated at desks or tables.

ABOUT THE ORIGIN ENERGY FOUNDATION

We are a philanthropic foundation, established by Origin Energy in 2010. We believe education has the power to transform lives and improve communities. We support education programs that help Australian children become the best that they can be. Encouraging greater diversity in 'STEM' education is one of our key focus areas. Find out more about our work at <u>originfoundation.org.au</u> and <u>Facebook</u>.

NEXT STEPS:

If you would like to arrange a Lights for Learning workshop for your school, please provide the following information to your Origin contact or directly to info@originfoundation.com.au.

- School address
- School contact name and number
- 2 or 3 preferred dates, or a window of dates
- Number of students
- Year level

