



JOHNNY WEISS SOLAR ENERGY ACCESS FOR ALL INITIATIVE

A Vision Rooted in Justice

In 1991, Johnny Weiss co-founded Solar Energy International (SEI) with one belief: renewable energy training should be accessible to everyone—regardless of geography, income, or infrastructure. SEI has since trained over 150,000 people in more than 100 countries.

Yet 775 million people still live without electricity. Over 2.3 billion lack reliable, affordable power. These aren't statistics—they're students learning without lights, doctors operating in darkness, families burning harmful fuels.

The Johnny Weiss Initiative carries Johnny's legacy forward by bringing solar education to communities who need it most.

This Is About Basic Human Rights

In many parts of the world, energy access doesn't mean being able to charge a luxury EV or running a dishwasher or powering a smart home. It means:

- Keeping vaccines cold in rural clinics
- Providing lighting for emergency surgeries
- Powering water pumps and communication tools
- Allowing children to study at night
- Creating local energy entrepreneurship

Johnny knew solar panels alone aren't enough. Education, skills, and local ownership create sustainable energy independence.

What the Initiative Supports

1. SEI Empowerment Scholarships: Full access to SEI's training programs for students from marginalized communities—low-income, Indigenous, rural, and off-grid populations.

2. Curriculum Licensing for Developing Communities: SEI's proven curriculum made available at low or no cost to nonprofits, vocational schools, and community training centers in underserved regions.

3. Johnny Weiss Fellowship Program: Mentorship, resources, and funding for individuals implementing community-scale solar solutions in underserved areas.

4. Open Access Course: We're converting SEI's flagship course, Renewable Energy for the Developing World, into a tuition-free, open access learning experience. The updated course will include new educational sessions led by many of Johnny's colleagues—solar warriors who have spent decades using renewable energy to empower developing communities and respond to natural disasters worldwide.



Scan or visit solarenergy.org/johnny-weiss for more info!

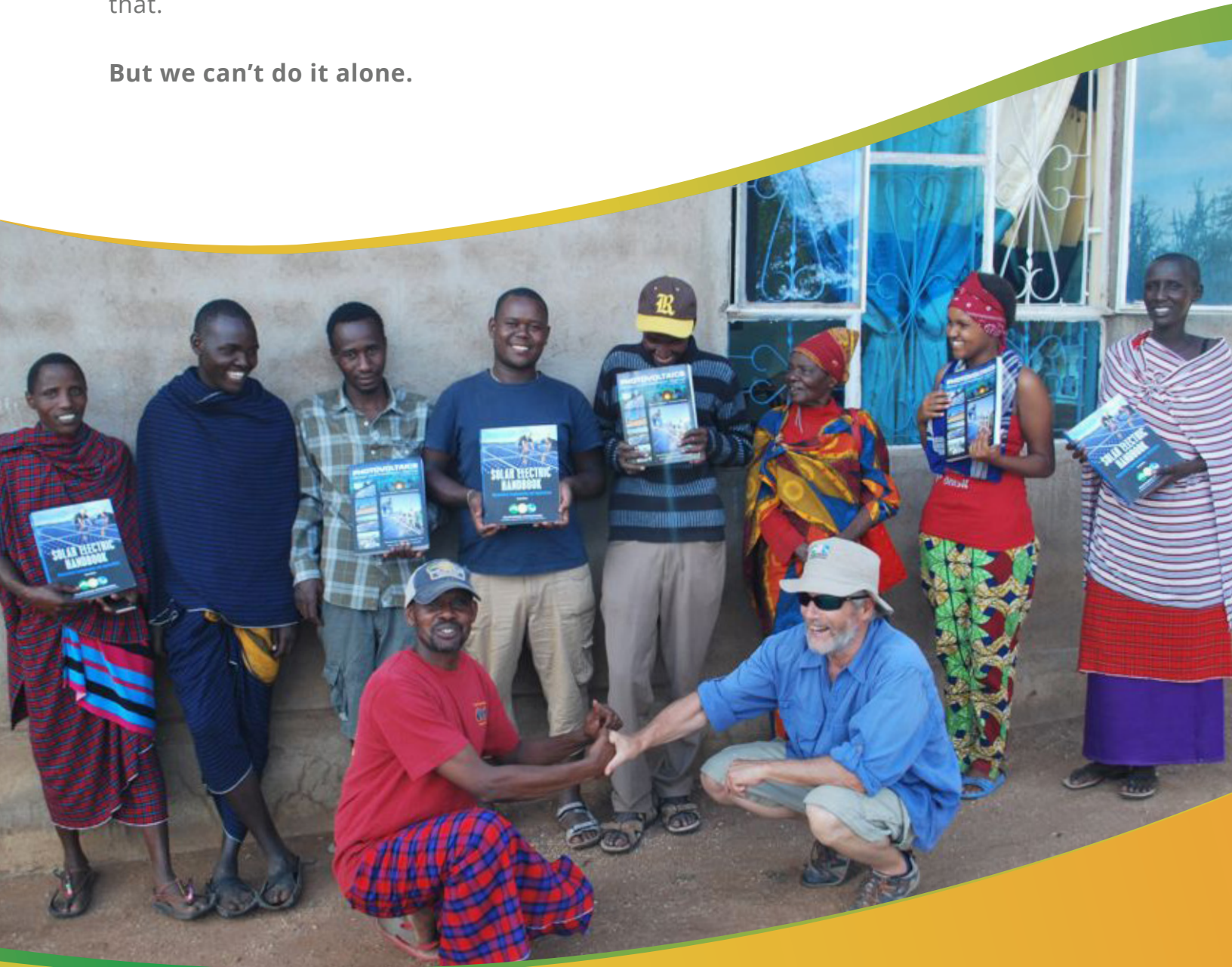
Why Now?

Historically, SEI partnered with organizations like USAID, the U.S. Department of Energy, and dozens of global NGOs to bring solar education to places where energy poverty is most acute. But recently, funding for international clean energy education and workforce development has been dramatically reduced or eliminated.

At the same time, the effects of climate change, geopolitical instability, and economic inequality are amplifying the energy divide. The most vulnerable communities are being left further behind—just when the world needs distributed, resilient energy systems the most.

The Johnny Weiss Solar Energy Access for All Initiative is how we change that.

But we can't do it alone.



DONATE TODAY

Whether you're an individual, a company, or a foundation—your donation directly supports scholarships, curriculum access, and fellowship opportunities for communities most affected by energy injustice.



Scan or visit solarenergy.org/donate to give now.

PARTNER WITH US

We welcome partnerships with individual donors, corporate sponsors, family foundations, and mission-aligned nonprofits to expand the reach of this initiative and help bring Johnny's vision to life across the globe.

SHARE THE MISSION

Spread the word. Tell Johnny's story. Advocate for energy access as a human right. Help us ensure solar education reaches those who need it most.



Scan or visit solarenergy.org/johnny-weiss to take action.