

All about Little Sun



Little Sun is:

- Attractive, high-quality solar products developed by artist Olafur Eliasson and engineer Frederik Ottesen
- A social business bringing clean, reliable, affordable light and energy to the 1.1 billion people worldwide without access to electricity
- A global project connecting the world through sharing the sun

Impact

- Every Little Sun sold enables us to provide Little Sun products to areas without electricity at locally affordable prices
- When you buy a Little Sun product, you ensure light and energy reaches those who need it most



Off-Grid Benefits

(off-grid = areas of the world without electricity)

- Little Sun provides a safe, clean alternative to toxic, flammable and expensive fuel-based lighting like kerosene lanterns.
- Better health: Little Sun prevents users from breathing the emissions kerosene lanterns' toxic fumes that cause respiratory problems and eye diseases. The light can even be helpful to deliver babies at night.
- Good for families and communities: Using Little Sun at night keeps women and children safer, families can cook and socialise together, businesses can remain open and people can stay in touch more easily when they have a reliable method to charge their phone
- Saves time: using a solar charger means no more wasting time walking long distances to charging stations
- Saves money: an investment in Little Sun lamps is recovered in 2 to 3 months. Off-grid users then have free light for 5 years
- Improves education: Little Sun light is 10 times stronger than kerosene lanterns - great for kids to study with after dark



Global Project

- Not only for off-grid areas, Little Sun products are popular across the globe
- Little Sun is currently available in over 10 African countries: Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Burundi, Senegal, Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa – as well as in the EU, Japan, Australia, Canada, and the USA
- We raise additional funds to support our work in off-grid communities through special Little Sun projects and events around the world

Social Business

- Little Sun is a social business addressing the need for light in a sustainable way that benefits communities without electricity, creates local jobs, and generates local profits
- Little Sun is not a charity. However, Little Sun does occasionally deliver lamps to communities in urgent need who are outside the reach of markets, such as to refugee camps
- Little Sun is not a charity. Rather than a short-term fix of donating our products to communities without electricity, we focus on the longer-term goal of building profitable local businesses that distribute Little Sun light and energy
- We work within off-grid communities to distribute our products through VSLAs, door-to-door sales, and in-home sales parties
- We provide funding for Little Sun sales agents to receive business starter kits and micro-entrepreneurial training



Little Sun Original

- Little Sun Original is a high-quality solar LED lamp
- Featuring a dimmer, it's easy to use: 5 hours of charging in the sun produces up to 50 hours of soft light or 4 hours of bright light
- Includes the world's most efficient solar cell, (monocrystalline, 4.4 V, 0.5 Watt), produced by SunPower, industry leaders in solar manufacturing
- Specially engineered to keep the electronics cool even while charging in the sun, and the ventilation of the solar panel ensures best efficiency
- Contains a IFR 14500/14505 LiFePO4 battery, 3.2V with 400 mAh. When used daily, the battery life is 5 years
- Received official certification in 2012 from Lighting Africa, a joint IFC and World Bank program

Little Sun Charge

- Featuring an inbuilt LED lamp with 3 light levels.
- 7.5 hours in the sun gives you:
- 155 hours of soft light
- 45 hours of bright light
- 14 hours of very bright light
- Includes the world's most efficient solar panel (monocrystalline, 4.4 V, 2.5 Watt) produced by SunPower, industry leaders in solar manufacturing
- LiFePO4 battery with a lifespan of 5 years when used daily
- On days with little sunlight, Little Sun Charge can be powered via USB connected to a regular electrical outlet
- Little Sun Charge is fully powered after 7.5 hours in the sun and will charge up to 2 smartphones

Little Sun Diamond

- Little Sun Diamond is a high-quality solar LED lamp with inbuilt stand
- 5 hours of charging in the sun gives you 5 hours of bright light, which then fades to long-lasting soft light
- Includes the world's most efficient solar cell, (monocrystalline, 4.4 V, 0.5 Watt), produced by SunPower, industry leaders in solar manufacturing
- Specially engineered to keep the electronics cool even while charging in the sun, and the ventilation of the solar panel ensures best efficiency
- Contains a IFR 14430 LiFePO4 battery, 3.2V with 400 mAh. When used daily, the battery life is 5 years
- Received official certification in 2017 from Lighting Africa, a joint IFC and World Bank program

Little Sun Original

Solar lamp

How many hours should I charge Little Sun Original before using it?

Before using your Little Sun Original for the first time, charge it for 8 hours in the sun, to ensure battery lifespan. Please note that for all subsequent charges, you only need to charge the device for 5 hours in the sun.

If I don't charge Little Sun Original for the full 5 hours, will it still work?

Yes, but it will run out of charge faster.

How often do I need to charge my Little Sun Original?

To maintain battery life, charge your Little Sun Original at least once a month.

How will I know when it is fully charged? Is there an indicator on the Little Sun Original?

There is no charging indicator. Charging your Little Sun Original for 5 hours in direct sunlight produces 50 hours of soft light or 4 hours of bright light.

Will it charge in overcast weather?

Yes, though it will take longer to reach full charge.

Can I walk in the rain with my Little Sun Original?

Yes. If your Little Sun Original gets wet in light rain, it's not a problem.

Can I go swimming with my Little Sun Original?

No. Little Sun Original is weather resistant, but not waterproof. It should not be submerged in water.

What if I drop my Little Sun Original? How sturdy is it?

Little Sun Original is extremely durable. It can handle the normal wear and tear of daily life.

How long will the batteries in the Little Sun Original last before needing to be replaced?

Little Sun Original contains a rechargeable IFR 14500/14505 LiFePO4 battery that will last for up to 5 years when used daily.

Should I replace the batteries myself? If so, where can I get them?

The battery can be replaced, however it is important that you replace it with the same type of battery as specified above (3.2 V with 400mAh). Please dispose of the old battery in accordance with the recycling standards of your country.

How do I replace the batteries?

You can replace the batteries using a TX9 screwdriver. Please see our detailed Battery Replacement Guide [here](#).

What is the flower design of the Little Sun Original based on?

Designed in close dialogue with users in Ethiopia, Little Sun Original is the first solar lamp to incorporate aesthetic and practical feedback from off-grid African regions. The lamp's unique design was inspired by the Ethiopian meskel flower, a national symbol of positivity and beauty.

Little Sun Charge

Solar charger with inbuilt lamp

How many hours should I charge Little Sun Charge before using it?

Before using your Little Sun Charge for the first time, charge it for 10 hours to ensure maximum battery lifespan – either in direct sunlight or charge on the grid with a USB connection. Please note that for all subsequent charges, you only need to charge the device for 7.5 hours in the sun.

If I don't charge Little Sun Charge for the full 7.5 hours, will it still work?

Yes, but it will run out of charge faster.

How often do I need to charge my Little Sun Charge?

To maintain battery life, charge your Little Sun Charge at least once a month.

How will I know when it is fully charged? Is there an indicator on the Little Sun Charge?

Yes, there is a charge indicator. When charging, the charge indicator shows the current battery level. All lights blinking: low charge. All lights steady: full charge.

Will it charge in overcast weather?

Yes, though it will take longer to reach full charge.

Can I go swimming with my Little Sun Charge?

No. Little Sun Charge is weather resistant, but not waterproof. It should not be submerged in water since there is also the risk of electric shock.

What if I drop my Little Sun Charge? How sturdy is it?

Little Sun Charge is durable, but might break if it falls and should be handled carefully.

How long will the batteries in the Little Sun Charge last before needing to be replaced?

Little Sun Charge contains two high-quality LiFePo4 rechargeable batteries that will support 5 years of daily use before they need to be replaced.

Should I replace the batteries myself? If so, where can I get them?

No, the batteries are custom-made for the Charge and need to be replaced by LittleSun GmbH. If your battery stops working during the 2 years warranty time, you get it replaced for free. After the 2 years have passed, we are still happy to exchange the battery for you for the price of the battery + shipping.

For further info, please get in touch with support@littlesun.com.
Shipping address for exchange:
LittleSun GmbH, Haus 4. Christinenstr. 18/19, 10119 Berlin

Little Sun Diamond

Solar lamp

How many hours should I charge Little Sun Diamond before using it?

Before using your Little Sun Diamond for the first time, charge it in direct sunlight for 8 hours to ensure maximum battery lifespan. Please note that for all subsequent charges, you only need to charge the device for 5 hours in the sun.

If I don't charge Little Sun Diamond for the full 5 hours, will it still work?

Yes, but it will run out of charge faster.

How often do I need to charge my Little Sun Diamond?

To maintain battery life, charge your Little Sun Diamond at least once a month.

How will I know when it is fully charged? Is there an indicator on the Little Sun Diamond?

There is no charging indicator but charging your Little Sun Diamond for 5 hours in direct sunlight produces 5 hours of bright light (22lm), which then fades to long-lasting soft light.

Will it charge in overcast weather?

Yes, though it will take longer to reach full charge.

Can I walk in the rain with my Little Sun Diamond?

Yes. If your Little Sun Diamond gets wet in light rain, it's not a problem.

Can I go swimming with my Little Sun Diamond?

No. Little Sun Diamond is weather resistant, but not waterproof. It should not be submerged in water.

What if I drop my Little Sun Diamond? How sturdy is it?

Little Sun Diamond is extremely durable. It can handle the normal wear and tear of daily life, so it's fine if you drop it.

How long will the batteries in the Little Sun Diamond last before needing to be replaced?

Little Sun Diamond contains a rechargeable 3.2V LiFePO4 battery with 300mAh that will last for up to 5 years when used daily.

How do I replace the batteries when they stop working?

The battery should be replaced by the LittleSun GmbH. If your battery stops working during the 2 years warranty time, you get it replaced for free. After the 2 years have passed, we are still happy to exchange the battery for you for the price of the battery + shipping.

For further info, please get in touch with support@littlesun.com.
Shipping address for exchange:
LittleSun GmbH, Haus 4. Christinenstr. 18/19, 10119 Berlin

Little Sun Diamond

Solar lamp

Can I replace the batteries myself?

However, for those who feel up to it, here is a detailed Battery Replacement Guide: [English version](#). [Deutsche Version](#). Also in pictures.

Please dispose of the old battery in accordance with the recycling standards of your country.

Why are there no screws in my Little Sun Diamond like in the Little Sun Original?

The difference between Little Sun Original and Little Sun Diamond is that the screws holding together Little Sun Diamond are placed behind the solar panel. The solar panel is glued on the lamp. We decided to do this because it makes the sealing easier and the production more cost-efficient, as we use less material. This means the Diamond is sturdier. Although this makes it more difficult for users to exchange the batteries, this ensures that the batteries will actually last longer.

For our customers in Sub-Saharan Africa, this is a valuable change, as batteries are often less affordable and accessible than solar lamps, which means they have to buy a new product when the old one stops working. Thus, our goal is to produce the most long-lasting, but still affordable solar lamps.

Production

Does Little Sun make other products?

Other solar-powered products with additional features are currently in development and will be available soon.

Where are the factories producing Little Sun located?

Mainly in Shenzhen, China.

How are the conditions for workers who produce Little Sun lamps?

As a social business and global project, we are extremely concerned with ensuring impeccable quality management and working conditions in every part of our supply chain. This involves working only with production partners (in China, Europe, and elsewhere), who can prove their compliance with international quality and security standards as well as with social directives such as ISO 9001 (quality management), the BSCI Code of Conduct (working conditions, including child labour regulations) and GSV (safety procedures throughout the supply chain). The compliance to these standards is monitored and verified on a continuous basis.

Why is Little Sun made with plastic? Wouldn't another material be more sustainable?

While it is true that another material might be more sustainable, the cost of employing such a material is currently prohibitive. It is important to us to make Little Sun solar-powered products that are easily affordable and can also deliver clean, sustainable energy to as many people as possible. Plastic is the only material that has the appropriate cost/durability ratio that allows us to make a high-quality product for the most affordable price.

We feel the ethical choice of materials is to choose a plastic that will last as long as possible, so those with limited financial resources will not need to replace their lamps often. For Little Sun solar-powered products, we chose a recyclable ABS plastic – a durable, highly weather and UV-resistant plastic that will last for years.

We are keeping up-to-date with current research on sustainable materials, and we hope to be able to implement new solutions if and when they become viable in the future.

What kind of plastic and other materials is Little Sun made from?

Little Suns are made of ABS plastic. In general the granulate material used is at least partially composed of recycled materials. Our manufacturer sells leftover material and faulty parts back to their vendor to be reused.

Social business and global impact

What makes Little Sun a social business?

Read all about the Little Sun social business at littlesun.com/about.

I live in an area with electricity. What impact am I making by purchasing a Little Sun for myself?

You are making a global impact by using sustainable solar energy. And you are helping bring solar power to those without electricity – every Little Sun sold delivers Little Sun light and energy to an off-grid African community at a locally affordable price.

\$10–\$15 seems a lot to pay for a Little Sun lamp in off-grid areas. Can people afford it?

Yes, they can. And though it is an initial investment for some, in the long term, Little Sun actually saves users money. Most people in off-grid areas use kerosene lanterns or flashlights for light after sunset. Kerosene fuel and the batteries used in flashlights are costly weekly expenses. An investment in Little Sun lamps is recovered in 2 to 3 months. Off-grid users then have free light for 5 years. Switching to solar power means off-grid users' monthly energy costs are reduced to zero, as energy from the sun is both sustainable and free.

In some off-grid areas, Little Sun distributors work with users to set up flexible payment plans, allowing them to pay for their solar products in small monthly installments.

Why don't you just give the lamps away for free to people in off-grid areas?

Little Sun is not a charity, but a social business that believes in the power of young African entrepreneurs to shape the future of Africa. Rather than a short-term fix of donating solar products to areas without electricity (which distorts local markets), we focus on the longer-term goal of building profitable local businesses that distribute Little Sun light and energy. We work with Little Sun sales agents in off-grid areas, providing business starter kits and micro-entrepreneurial training. Little Sun addresses the need for light in a sustainable way that benefits off-grid communities, by spreading light as well as livelihoods.

In response to the global refugee crisis, Little Sun is donating products more regularly to those in disaster situations or refugee camps.

Can I donate Little Sun lamps to off-grid regions?

LittleSun GmbH is a social business. By buying a Little Sun product, you help us strengthen communities from the inside by creating local jobs and generating local profits through our local partners and network of young, African entrepreneurs.

If you prefer donating money, you can donate to the Little Sun Foundation – it's Little Sun's charitable entity, founded by Olafur Eliasson as a part of the Little Sun project. The core mission is to deliver solar energy to the most vulnerable communities – children who live without access to electricity as well as refugees and internally displaced persons.

Distribution and ordering

Can I order Little Sun products online?

Yes. Go to littlesun.com/shop to order Little Sun products through our website (Europe and USA only), or browse through our selection of retail shops around the world (some of which have their own web shops where it's also possible to order Little Sun products online). www.littlesun.com/store-locations/

In which countries is Little Sun available?

Currently Little Sun is available in over ten African countries: Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Burundi, Senegal, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, as well as in Europe, Japan, Australia, Canada, and the USA.

Order online at www.littlesun.com/shop/ (Europe and USA only), or browse through our selection of retail shops around the world. www.littlesun.com/store-locations/

Will you expand into other countries?

Definitely. Be the first to know when we become available in additional countries by following us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or by signing up for the quarterly Little Sun Newsletter via the sign up form on our Facebook page or via our website.

I would like to work with you to spread solar light. How do I become a Little Sun distributor?

If you are in a part of Africa where we are already operating, please contact our distributor in the country in which you are located. <http://littlesun.com/store-locations/>

If you are in any other part of the world, please write to us at business@littlesun.com.

Can I buy Little Suns in bulk/very large amounts?

Yes. For information about larger contributions, company packages, or bulk orders, please contact us at business@littlesun.com, and we'll be happy to help you.

Can I get Little Suns customised for a special event?

Yes. For company presents, weddings, and other special events, it is possible for you to place a bulk order of Little Suns and customise the lamp or lanyard accordingly. Contact us at business@littlesun.com for details.

What are the technical specifications for Little Sun products?

For Little Sun Original: <http://littlesun.com/product/little-sun-original/>
For Little Sun Charge: <http://littlesun.com/product/little-sun-charge/>
For Little Sun Diamond: <http://littlesun.com/product/little-sun-diamond/>

Why have you chosen to manufacture Little Sun in China?

The reasons for the production of Little Sun in China are mainly financial. Our mission is not only to get solar light to as many people as possible, but to create a sustainable business so that everyone involved in the supply chain benefits, in particular the local entrepreneurs we work with in off-grid regions. Due to our off-grid customers' limited financial resources, we must produce a high-quality product for the lowest possible price.

We have looked into producing our lamps in Germany and Africa, but for now this is not possible if we want to keep prices low for users in off-grid African regions. We will continue to investigate this option, as we would like to eventually move our production or assembly to Africa.

