



Light4all is an innovative and intelligent way to bring electric lighting to rural areas. The Light4all lantern is based on an existing lantern combined with advanced and robust management technology.

The lantern so far has found tens of thousands of satisfied users, mainly in Africa. It arrived there through ordinary sales channels as well as partly subsidized through projects. In the long run, solar light is known to be cheaper than petrol light, but the up front investment necessary for cash-purchase of solar lanterns was found to be beyond the means of most rural households.

Depreciation of the Light4all lantern against the traditional kerosene lamp is 6 to 8 months. We have now developed a pre-pay system of buying solar light. This creates the possibility for all rural households to have access to good quality electric light, which is why we have called it the LIGHT4ALL Lantern. With pre-pay light, customers pay for the light they use and the eventual purchase of the lantern is done with the same small payments, and this hire-purchase will eventually result in ownership – "Rent2own". The most important goal is that many consumers receive real access to electric lighting for study or (domestic) work, for socializing, good health and generally improved quality of life. Secondly the proper use of solar energy must be promoted to ensure long life of the lantern, avoid loss of products and unnecessary guarantee claims, and to ensure that retailers earn enough to be able to invest in further growth. Finally project-overhead was to be minimized and technological measures were applied to avoid wrong use or fraud.

Desired light must be paid in advance (pre-paid). For this procedure a wireless communication point, where credit can be sent to the lantern, is developed. Light credits are uploaded and at the same time there is the possibility to obtain information on the use of the lantern. Statistics can be received wirelessly to support management and educate people on the proper use of the Light4all.



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