

Dear Robb Hirsch,

Our nation has contributed a large amount of CO₂ emissions to the problem of Climate Change. However, we are also a nation of innovators; in this country, science is leading to new and exciting solutions concerned with reducing climate change and bettering the world. Everyday people, too, can drive this change through their own individual actions, and the CCLI is especially helpful and inspirational in this regard. It is possible for anyone and everyone to come up with an idea, draft it, and then implement it, leading to new possibilities and innovations in the world.

I was deeply humbled and somewhat surprised to learn that I had been given the honor of accepting the Innovation Award for my invention, a Solar Powered Water "Desalinator". To briefly describe the purpose of this invention, the Desalinator is meant to remove salt from water by using a parabolic mirror to focus the sun's rays in order to boil water, evaporate it as steam, and then re-condense it as pure, desalinated water. This device could be used in areas with plenty of access to salt water, but little to no access to drinking water. The device that I invented is a prototype; it still has some bugs to work out. However, I hope to refine its design and improve its efficiency, particularly in regard to its collection of light.

The prize money that I received from this award will be going to another great nonprofit organization, Solar Cookers International. This group has invented a product that can cook food via lightweight cardboard mirrors, and has shipped these solar ovens to developing nations. With such simple yet brilliant devices, people can prepare their food without the need for burning wood, a practice that has, unfortunately, led to deforestation and smoke filled homes. SCI certainly does seem to be a project with a promising future.

Again, it is a great honor to receive this award, and I hope others will now be inspired by your organization think of solutions to meet the challenges of today's world.

Sincerely,

Noah Kwicklis