

PROJECT PROPOSAL

TITLE: Installation of Solar Panels for Electricity Generation in a Children's Home

ADDRESS OF PROJECT: Singithi Sevana Children's Home, 11 Dharmasoka Mawatha, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Web address: www.singithisevana.org

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BANK ACCOUNT: Bank of Ceylon, Kandy, Savings Account No. 3757668,

Bank Code-7010/Branch Code 002

88, Dalada Veediya, Kandy

SWIFT CODE- BCEY LK LX

COST OF PROJECT: Approx. LKR 2.4 million

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

Our society, a local social service organization, established in 1977 to offer residential facilities to needy young children, manages the Singithi Sevana Children's Home which is located at this address. The Home gives residential care to around 35 disadvantaged children, majority who are between the ages 3- 12 y sent through the Department of Probation & Child care, Central Province. Admission and handing over children is entirely through this state department. We are an approved charity with the Inland Revenue Department. We have a paid staff that comprise 8 resident staffers and 3 regular non- resident staff for childcare. We conduct a preschool in our premises for the 3-5 y olds employing a preschool teacher. The older kids attend local state schools but most are educationally backward and paid visiting tutors help them in their studies. The Home is situated bordering a main roadway in a residential area within the Kandy Municipality. The Buildings constructed by the society are on 0.5 h land on long-term lease from the Temple of the Tooth. Electricity and water services are from the town supply.

The society receives an annual grant from the state and a monthly grant from the *Samurdi* organization based on the number of children housed. However, this is totally inadequate for our day-to-day management as the society has to meet the staff and tutor salaries, payments for utility services, the children's health and educational needs including school transport and for routine repair and maintenance work. Thus we are dependent largely on income generated from society savings and donations from benefactors.

Project justification

Being a charitable facility electricity supply was subsidized since the inception but regrettably due to the country's economic crisis the state has now taken off this subsidy in addition to increasing tariffs. As a result our monthly electricity consumption of around 600-700 units which cost around Rs. 6000 has increased to Rs.38,000. We are now faced with this enormous electricity bills which is a burden straining our finances. We have invested in solar water heating and most recently a biogas unit but as the children are preschoolers and young

kids, cutting down further on electricity usage are limited. The buildings are structurally sound for the roofing to bear weight of solar panels. Hence we wish to invest in solar electricity panels to generate power as a long-term solution to supplement our energy needs.

Objective of the proposed activity

- To mitigate expenditure on electricity bills by installing 4 kW solar panels connected to the national grid to generate electricity on the net metering basis offered by the state authority.