

Global LEAP Awards Announces Winner of Off-Grid Refrigerator Innovation Prize for Appropriate Design and User Experience

KIGALI, RWANDA – On November 8, 2018 at the Unlocking Solar Capital Africa conference, the Scaling Off-Grid Energy (SOGE) Grand Challenge for Development announced the winner of the 3rd and final innovation prize associated with the 2017 Global LEAP Awards Off-Grid Refrigerator Competition, the world's first competition to identify best-in-class, energy-efficient refrigerators designed for off-grid use.



The winner of the final Appropriate Design and User Experience \$200,000 innovation cash prize is [Palfridge](#), a Swaziland-based company whose LC86 product demonstrated market-leading advancement during field testing with end users.

The prizes were sponsored by [USAID'S Global Development Lab](#), [Power Africa](#), and UK Aid delivered by the Department for International Development (DFID) through the [Ideas to Impact programme](#) as part of their commitment to the [Scaling Off-Grid Energy Grand Challenge for Development](#). The Appropriate Design and User Experience prize announced today follows the award of two innovation prizes for Overall Value and Energy Efficiency [in Hong Kong in early 2018](#) based on laboratory test results and additional information provided by nominators.



A man in Uganda standing by his Palfridge refrigerator

The Global LEAP Awards identify and promote the world's best off-grid appliances, accelerating market development and innovation. Awards programmes use a competition-based approach to drive innovation in early stage technologies, while building valuable technical and commercial market infrastructure.

All Global LEAP Awards Winners and Finalists undergo testing by accredited laboratories for their energy performance, quality, and reliability, and an evaluation by a panel of off-grid market experts. For the 2017 Awards, Global LEAP also shipped eligible refrigerators to Uganda for field testing, to assess how these products perform in 'real life' conditions and receive feedback from customers about their experience.

“Through the field testing, we were able to learn an immense amount, not only about user behavior and the energy system required to support large and energy-intensive appliances, but also the potentially transformative impact of appropriately designed technologies on businesses and communities”, said Ideas to Impact Director Bryony Everett.

“The majority of the entrepreneurs participating in the field test reported to be generating additional revenue for their business driven by the sale of cold drinks”

Energy-efficient, appropriately designed and priced off-grid refrigerators can improve livelihoods and achieve broader development impacts. Palfridge's LC86 demonstrated efficient daily energy consumption, as well as easy installation, use, and initial maintenance, all important attributes to consumers. “It has increased my income. I can sell 1-2 cartons of drinks per day which was not the case previously” said one of the users.

Background

The 2016-17 Global LEAP Awards' Off-Grid Refrigerator Competition was supported by the Scaling Off-Grid Energy Grand Challenge for Development. SOGE's partners that funded the competition include the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.K. Department for International Development's Ideas to Impact Programme, and Power Africa's Beyond the Grid initiative.

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About Scaling Off-Grid Energy Grand Challenge for Development

The Scaling Off-Grid Energy (SOGE) Grand Challenge for Development is a global partnership founded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Power Africa, the U.K. Department for International Development, the African Development Bank, and independent charity, the Shell Foundation. By optimizing the collective resources and expertise of SOGE partners, we are accelerating the growth of a dynamic, commercial off-grid energy market to provide clean, modern, and affordable energy access to the millions of households and businesses beyond the grid in sub-Saharan Africa.

