



# VeraSol

## Quality Assurance for Modern Off-Grid Solar Solutions

AN EVOLUTION OF LIGHTING GLOBAL QUALITY ASSURANCE, VERASOL SUPPORTS HIGH-PERFORMING, DURABLE OFF-GRID PRODUCTS THAT EXPAND ACCESS TO MODERN ENERGY SERVICES.

### WHAT WE OFFER:

- ✓ **Test methods & quality standards**
- ✓ **Technical capacity building for test laboratories**
- ✓ **Public listings of quality products**
- ✓ **Quality-verification services**
- ✓ **Technical assistance to governments**

**Engagement with market actors**

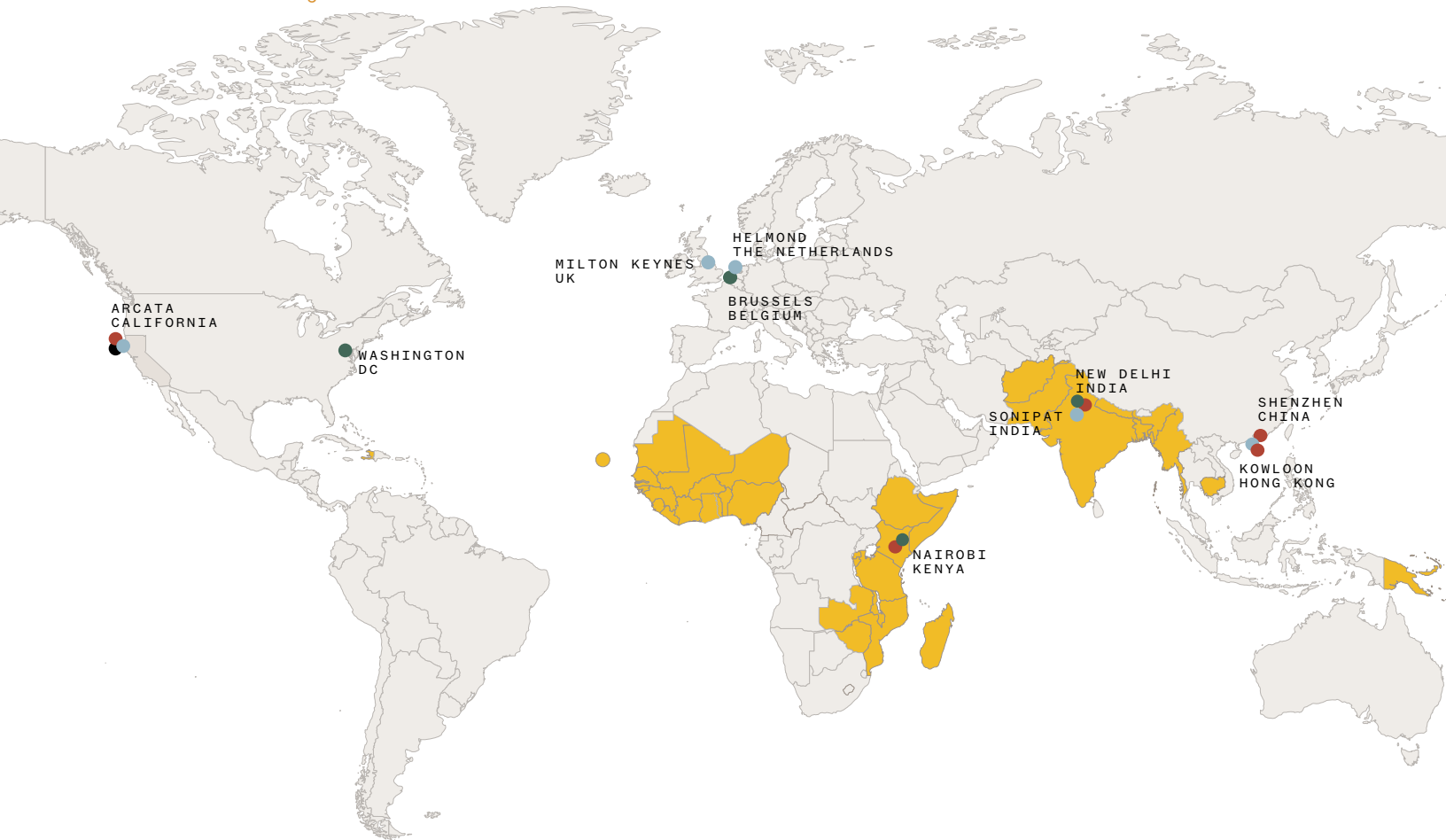
Quality assurance is a critical and stabilizing force within the off-grid solar energy industry. In 2007, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and World Bank first recognized the need to support healthy market growth and protect consumers. Since then, Lighting Global Quality Assurance has promoted the manufacturing, distribution, and procurement of quality pico-PV products and solar home system kits.

The off-grid energy market has changed dramatically since 2007. Advancements in technology and consumer affordability are pushing the market toward higher-power systems that enable the use of appliances and productive uses. As consumers continue to climb the energy ladder, the need to extend quality assurance beyond lighting grows. VeraSol builds upon the strong foundation laid by the World Bank Group and expands its quality assurance framework to include appliances and productive use equipment currently housed under Equip Data. To better serve consumers, companies, and markets, VeraSol now encompasses technical foundations for these products and plans to expand its services in the coming years.

VeraSol is managed by CLASP in collaboration with its partner, the Schatz Energy Research Center at Humboldt State University. Foundational support is provided by World Bank Group's Lighting Global program, UKaid, the IKEA Foundation, and others.

# Our Reach

- Test labs: Pico-PV & SHS kits
- CLASP office
- Test labs: Appliances & productive uses
- Schatz Energy Research Center office
- Technical assistance to governments



## Benefits for Market Actors



### MANUFACTURERS

Easily assess their own products, compare them against competitors' products, and make smarter product development decisions.



### DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS

Increase impact and cost effectiveness by limiting eligibility for programs to products that meet VeraSol standards or certain minimum requirements.



### DISTRIBUTORS

Quickly and easily identify good quality products that reduce the financial and reputational risks associated with guaranteeing products to end consumers.



### GOVERNMENTS

Use our QA framework as a basis for tax and duty policies, voluntary market stimulation programs, and product regulations. Harmonized national standards reduce the resources needed to develop and implement policy.



### INVESTORS

Reduce risk by investing only in companies that trade in products that meet VeraSol's standards for quality, performance, and durability.



### CONSUMERS

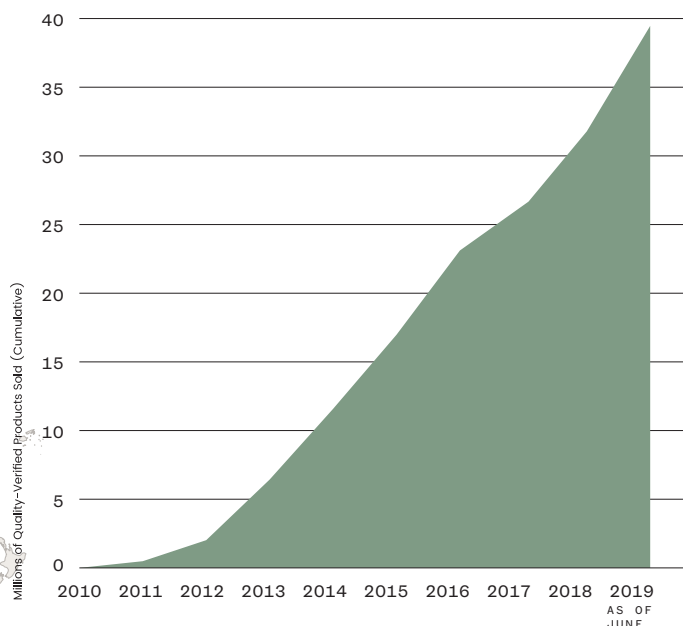
Access high-quality products at an affordable price. They can trust manufacturers' performance claims and avoid purchasing products that won't perform as expected.

# Our Impact

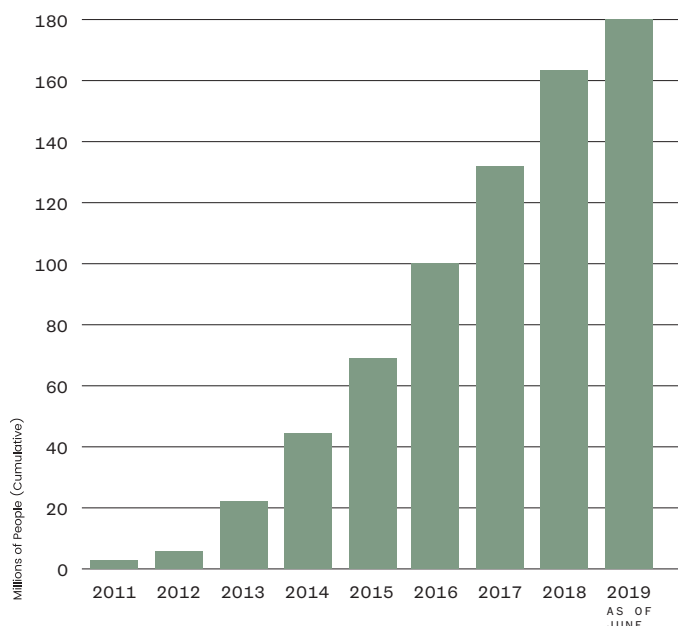
39.8 MILLION QUALITY-  
VERIFIED PRODUCTS SOLD,  
BENEFITING 180M PEOPLE



**Reported Product Sales of Quality-Verified Products (Cumulative)**



**Millions of People Benefiting from Quality-Verified Products (Cumulative)**



**LIGHTING GLOBAL**  
Creating markets for modern off-grid energy

**WORLD BANK GROUP**  
IFC

**2007**  
IFC and World Bank create the Lighting Africa Program

**2008**  
Lighting Africa Quality Assurance Method developed with support from Fraunhofer

**2010**  
First off-grid lighting products meet the Lighting Global Quality Standards

**2012**  
Lighting Asia Program launches

**2013**  
Lighting Global Quality Test Method published by the IEC as TS 62257-9-5.

**2015**  
Lighting Global Quality Standards expand to SHS kits. Kenya adopts the Lighting Global Quality Standards.

**2017**  
CLASP awarded contract to implement Lighting Global Quality Assurance with the Schatz Energy Research Center

**2018**  
Over 30 million quality-verified products sold since 2010  
- As of 2019, 5 countries have adopted the Lighting Global Quality Standards.

**2020**  
Lighting Global Quality Assurance and Equip Data are rebranded as VeraSol. The program is operated by CLASP in partnership with the Schatz Energy Research Center.

**VeraSol**

**GLOBAL LEAP**

**EFFICIENCY FOR ACCESS**

**clasp**

**2014**  
Through the Global LEAP Awards, CLASP develops off-grid TV test methods & generates off-grid television data

**2016**  
Off-Grid Appliance Data Platform pilot launches. Test method and performance data available for fans

**2017**  
CLASP adds off-grid refrigerator data to its database & tests off-grid appliances in 10 markets

**2019**  
Under Efficiency for Access, CLASP launches Equip Data, containing comparable data for televisions, fans, refrigerators, and solar water pumps

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Lighting Global Quality Assurance is well established in the off-grid solar energy sector. Why change the name to VeraSol?**

The off-grid solar energy industry has grown and changed since Lighting Global Quality Assurance first launched. Off-grid companies now make, distribute, and sell products beyond basic lighting solutions. As the number and range of off-grid products has grown, so has the need to identify good-quality products. A new name and brand will allow VeraSol to serve a more diverse range of market actors and product categories, including off-grid appliances and productive uses.

## **Does this mean the IFC and World Bank have discontinued their involvement and support for quality assurance?**

No, the IFC and World Bank have not discontinued their support for quality assurance. While Lighting Global Quality Assurance was instrumental in shaping the off-grid solar energy sector, it was always the World Bank Group's intention to grow the quality assurance program into a standalone program under the leadership of CLASP. Lighting Global has been working closely with CLASP since 2016 to build its capacity to operate the quality assurance program. The program is now ready to launch under a new brand. The IFC and World Bank will continue to work closely with VeraSol through foundational support and strategic guidance.

## **Does this mean the Lighting Global program no longer exists?**

No, Lighting Global will continue to operate as a market development program offering business development services to companies. Lighting Global will continue to work in close coordination with CLASP to promote quality off-grid solar solutions and support a smooth transition from Lighting Global Quality Assurance to VeraSol.

## **Who is behind VeraSol?**

VeraSol is managed by CLASP in close coordination with the Schatz Energy Research Center at Humboldt State University (Schatz Center). CLASP and the Schatz Center managed standards development, product testing, quality verification, and technical assistance for Lighting Global Quality Assurance since 2016. They will continue to do so under VeraSol. VeraSol is supported by an expanding group of institutions and organizations. Foundational support for VeraSol is provided by the World Bank Group's Lighting Global program, UKaid, the IKEA Foundation, and others.

## **Where can I access Lighting Global Quality Assurance resources, such as Technical Notes, stakeholder feedback and information about quality standards?**

Through mid-2020, all Lighting Global Quality Assurance resources may be accessed through the Lighting Global website. After June 2020, those resources will be housed at VeraSol.org.

## **Where will products be tested or quality-verified?**

Lighting Global Quality Assurance test laboratories will continue to test products under the VeraSol Test Lab Network, formerly the Lighting Global Test Lab Network. VeraSol will expand its lab network and capacity to test a range of off-grid appropriate appliances and productive use equipment. Laboratories in the network currently have the capacity to test pico-PV products and SHS kits, as well as off-grid-appropriate fans, televisions, refrigerators, and solar water pumps.

## **Will the brand transition affect the testing and quality verification process for pico-solar products and SHS kits?**

Products will continue to be tested using the same IEC test methods and the results reviewed by the same team of experts as today. For the time being, products that meet the Lighting Global Quality Standards will continue to be issued Lighting Global verification letters. Later this year, we plan to begin evaluating products against the newly adopted IEC Quality Standards and issuing VeraSol verification letters. We will work with companies and others to determine the appropriate timing for these changes.

## **Will this transition make it difficult for me to get my Lighting Global quality-verified products to market?**

We will make every effort to work with companies, programs, and governments to ensure a smooth transition from Lighting Global Quality Assurance to VeraSol and help companies obtain the documentation they need to comply with import rules and other regulations. We believe that, working together, we can minimize market disruption. The VeraSol team will work in partnership with the World Bank Group to leverage its long-standing relationships and communicate essential information to key audiences well in advance of any major changes.

## **Where can I find information on quality-verified pico-PV products and SHS kits? What about off-grid appliance data?**

Currently, all product information on quality-verified pico-PV products and SHS kits may be found on the products page of the Lighting Global website. Likewise, all performance data for off-grid appropriate fans, televisions, refrigerators, and solar water pumps may be found on Equip Data. Please visit VeraSol.org for links to the Lighting Global products page and Equip Data. All of these product data will be housed together on VeraSol.org after June 2020.

## **How do I get in touch with the VeraSol team?**

For general inquiries, contact [info@VeraSol.org](mailto:info@VeraSol.org). Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter and important program updates. You may also follow us on Twitter at [@VeraSol\\_QA](https://twitter.com/VeraSol_QA) and LinkedIn at VeraSol Quality Assurance.



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