



Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Dear Prix Galien EcoHealth Award Committee,

On behalf of the DRK Foundation we are honored to write a letter of outstanding support and reference for Solar Sister, an organization whose work has substantial impacts on strengthening climate resilience, reducing energy poverty, and empowering women through economic opportunity in the most off-grid areas lacking basic access to electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa.

For off-grid, last mile communities, there are limited energy options. Solar Sister's model relies on entrepreneurs based directly in these communities to ensure they can be served. To date, Solar Sister's work has mitigated more than 2 million metric tons of carbon emissions, and they have distributed more than 1.5 million clean energy products and displaced kerosene lanterns, bringing light, hope, and opportunity to millions. Their work intentionally centers on women's leadership because women are the primary managers of energy at the household level and have deep community ties. Because these women and children are not spending substantial parts of their week collecting fuel for energy use, this has increased school attendance for schoolgirls; these entrepreneurs also have reported being financially better off and with more leeway on household financial decisions.

DRK's investment thesis as well as our great enthusiasm for Solar Sister's impact can be found [HERE](#). We believe their work is an incredible fit for the Prix Galien EcoHealth Award, as it addresses critical issues at the intersection of human and planetary health. Solar Sister has not only reduced carbon emissions but also improved health outcomes, education, and economic stability in underserved communities.

Please reach out to us anytime we can answer questions for you in your diligence process.

With respect, admiration, and gratitude,

Emily Edwards, Senior Director & Sarah Verschoor, Portfolio Fundraising Strategies Manager
eedwards@drkfoundation.org and sverschoor@drkfoundation.org
Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation