



[Return to article](#) | [Return to Environment](#)

S.C.R.A.P. event harnesses sun

Xochitl Peña
The Indio Sun
May 11, 2007

Forget the instant gratification of microwave ovens.

For the environmentally conscious, it's all about sun ovens.

The concept has been around forever - harnessing the sun's energy with the use of reflective material.

At S.C.R.A.P Gallery in Indio Saturday, a handful of men were learning how to make their own cooker while local youth competed nearby in "Solar Olympics" events.

"We have the Olympics to encourage hands-on projects because a lot of time they don't get a chance to build things," said Tor Allen, executive director of The Rahus Institute, which puts on the solar competition.

About 35 youth from five different east valley schools, raced solar powered cars and showed off their environmentally friendly model homes.

It was the self-proclaimed "Solar Girls" - Laura Urias and Raquel Avendano, sixth graders from Saul Martinez Elementary School in Mecca - that walked away with first place in the model home category.

"I must say, you've done a very good job," Allen told the two friends.

Their home was called an eco-dome and utilized solar panels and four sky lights on top for heat and light. Its exterior was light colored to help keep the make-believe residence cool.

"This is a perfect house for you to live in," Laura explained. "In the summer it's cool and in the winter it's warm."

The same solar concept is used in the sun cookers, which don't contribute to pollution and is better for the environment, said Karen Riley, executive director of the gallery, housed at the Riverside County Fairgrounds.

"It's like an environmentally friendly crock-pot. And when we have an abundance of sun, why wouldn't you do that?" she said.

Riley has her own solar cooker.

She fills it with beans in the mornings and when she returns from work, they're done.

"They're creating less pollution. It's really cool," she said.



Omar Ornelas, The Indio Sun
Jennifer Gopar prepares her solar run race car at the S.C.R.A.P. Gallery exhibition.

ABOUT S.C.R.A.P GALLERY

S.C.R.A.P stands for Student Creative Recycle Art Program.

The gallery teaches conservation by stressing the four R's - reduction, reusing, recycling and responsibility - through hands-on activities.

The gallery is located at 46-350 Arabia St. at the Riverside County Fairgrounds in Indio.

For more information about gallery programs, call 863-7777.

[Site Search](#) [Customer service](#) [About this site](#) [Contact us](#) [F.A.Q.](#) [Subscribe Now!](#) [Advertise](#)
CLASSIFIED PARTNERS: [Jobs: CareerBuilder.com](#) | [Cars: Cars.com](#) | [Apartments: Apartments.com](#) | [Shopping: ShopLocal.com](#)

Copyright © 2007 The Desert Sun

All rights reserved. Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy/Your California Privacy Rights](#)
(Terms updated March 2007)

