



Children of Dharani, a village in Bihar that runs exclusively on solar power through a micro-grid established by Greenpeace India.



Solar-powered streetlights in Dharani.

Nowhere is the contrast between localisation and centralisation more apparent than in how electric energy is produced and distributed. Even sources of energy traditionally considered as alternate such as solar and wind can be destructive if the scale is large and if design and implementation are exclusionary and informed by profits alone (right).



When 'alternative' energy becomes a menace; large scale windmills in Kalpavalli in Andhra Pradesh that drastically alter land-use and water drainage patterns, threatening wildlife and human subsistence.

But when the scale is local, and when the end-user is a participant in the process, renewable sources of energy can be socially just and environmentally prudent. **Greenpeace India** has demonstrated successfully (top) that a settlement of 450 households and 50 commercial establishments can run on a solar micro-grid.



SELCO (left), a social enterprise employing solar panels and micro-grids, has helped thousands of poor families in south India own their own solar units.

It is important to note however that energy security also requires serious efforts at reducing elite consumption, and increasing efficiency of production, distribution, and use.

Clockwise from left: Panels installed by SELCO powering homes, schools and small businesses in south India.