

ILUMÉXICO - PROVIDING AFFORDABLE SOLAR ENERGY SOLUTIONS TO RURAL AREAS IN MÉXICO

Since 2010 the [social enterprise Iluméxico](#) is installing affordable solar systems in rural areas of the country that are not connected to the electricity grid.

The company's official website reports significant data on their impact in rural areas: 8.855 systems installed and 37.527 users. Iluméxico also created 12 local branches (ILUCentros) installed at no more than 3 hours from the communities, in order to provide technical assistance and local knowledge in rural areas of different regions of the country.

Iluméxico estimates that, in this way, reduces the emission of 63.4 tons of CO2 per year into the atmosphere by displacing candles, kerosene, and diesel. Displacing kerosene they also reduce health risks for many people.

All of Ilumexico's products are designed by In-house engineers and specialists and manufactured in Mexico, ensuring a constant revision process based on user feedback. [The solar equipment installed have been developed specifically for rural use](#), with a focus on durability, user-friendliness, and adaptability to local needs.

The technology has intelligent algorithms that save energy and allow the user to choose the level of illumination. An innovative charge controller, developed and manufactured in Mexico by the team, is responsible for managing the energy generated by the solar cell and controls the charge and discharge cycles to help prolong battery life. This controller allows the user to directly regulate the level of lighting using three different modes (light, medium and high), which saves energy.

The equipment provided to rural people has rapidly replaced the candles, kerosene lamps and battery-powered appliances that were previously used as sources of light. In contrast to these traditional methods, which are harmful, polluting and expensive, the energy obtained by the news solar system is renewable and always operates at maximum efficiency.



Customers of Iluméxico save between 18-25% on their energy costs compared to what they were previously spending on other lighting sources such as diesel and candles, as well as the money that these rural customers had to pay to travel to buy these sources.

Iluméxico works with government bodies, such as the Ministry of Energy, the Federal Electricity Commission, the Ministry of Social Development, and the National Housing Commission, to address energy strategies in Mexico.

Aside from grants received from government and other agencies, Iluméxico generates the rest of its revenue from the sale of its products. The company began by subsidizing up to half the cost of its programs. Today, most of the users pay the full price of the utility, with only the most disadvantaged and under-resourced customers receiving support. Iluméxico works with microfinance institutions to help its customers pay for the costs of its solar products

Iluméxico is able to build a variety of solar systems based on different sized solar panels. These systems can be used to power lights and for specific applications like solar water pumps, street lightening, electric solar fences and solar fridges. Today the organization is working in collaboration with several partners and developing Lighting and electrification programs for households, Electrification programs for schools and community centers and Electrification programs for health clinics.

Illuméxico and his co-founder Manuel Wiechers have been recognized by prestigious national and international institutions and prizes for the innovative products they have created, the methods they adopt and for their social impact.

To know more

[Iluméxico website](#)

[Sitio web Iluméxico.mx](#)

[Iluméxico in Twitter](#)

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[Iluméxico in Ashoka.org](#)

[Iluméxico in energymap-scu-org](#)

[Iluméxico in milenio.com](#)

[Iluméxico in mundohvacr.com.mx](#)

[Manuel Wiechers in MIT innovators under 35](#)

[Manuel Wiechers in changemakers.com](#)

[Article in educaciónculturaaz.com](#)

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[Case Study in taroworks.org](#)

