

## D5: SOLAR ENERGY

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### Overview

In this activity, the students learn the essentials about solar energy by making their own solar powered heater. It is a good follow up to activities students may have previously carried out in **B5 ACTIVITY 1 (I): WHAT COLOUR SURFACES ABSORB HEAT?**

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### Suggested approaches:

- Recap on earlier activities from **B5: HEAT ENERGY BY RADIATION**.
  - Ask the students to outline the function of each of the items listed for making a solar heater before constructing it.
  - Have the students draw up a flow chart indicating the role of each of the items to be used in constructing the heater. This will make the construction more interesting and easier to 'fault-find' if it malfunctions.
  - Alternatively, let students construct the heater and then assign a functional role to each item.
  - Once the 'solar heater' is registering temperature, pose some questions:
    - ① *Does the temperature of the water in both bowls change?*
    - ① *Why is this?*
    - ① *Which bowl records the highest water temperature?*
    - ① *How is the solar powered water heater helping to increase the temperature?*
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### Resources:

- The [SEAI website](#) has information on the use of Solar Energy for solar heat and solar electricity.
- SEAI has information on [other sources of renewable energy](#).