



WE CARE SOLAR

*Laura Stachel, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director and Co-Founder*

Dr. Laura Stachel, Co-founder and Executive Director of We Care Solar®, worked as an obstetrician-gynecologist for 14 years. She holds an M.D. from University of California, San Francisco and an M.P.H. in Maternal and Child Health from University of California, Berkeley. Her research on maternal mortality in Nigeria in 2008 alerted her to the deleterious effects of energy poverty on maternal health outcomes. She co-founded We Care Solar with Hal Aronson to bring simple solar electric solutions to maternal and child health care in regions without reliable electricity. We Care Solar has equipped more than 5,100 health facilities in over 30 countries with We Care Solar Suitcases®, compact solar energy systems providing essential lighting and power to improve childbirth outcomes. The We Care Solar Suitcase won the 2019 Edison Innovation Award and was selected by TIME Magazine as one of the Best Inventions of 2019. In 2018, We Care Solar launched the international Light Every Birth initiative to ensure every woman can access safe childbirth services, prioritizing African countries with the high rates of maternal mortality, including Liberia, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Sierra Leone.

Laura is passionate about promoting sustainable energy solutions for women's health and speaks globally on this topic. She was active in the UN Foundation's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative and co-chaired a Working Group on Energy and Health. Laura was one of the Top 10 CNN Heroes of 2013. For her work with We Care Solar, Laura received numerous awards, including the 2019 Zayed Sustainability Prize, the 2017 UNFCCC Momentum for Change Award, The 2017 Drucker Innovation Prize, the 2017 Bloomberg New Energy Pioneer Award, the 2015 UN DESA "Powering the Future We Want" Award, the 2015 UBS Optimus Award, the 2015 UCSF Alumni Award, the 2014 Katerva Gender Equality Award, the 2012 Clean Energy, Education and Empowerment Award, the 2012 United Nations Association Global Citizens Award, the 2011 Tech Award, the 2010 Jefferson Award for Public Service, and the 2010 UC Berkeley Chancellor's Award for Civic Engagement.

