

## Going solar in Côte d'Ivoire

Bakary is a young taxi driver in a town near Abidjan, the economic capital of Côte d'Ivoire.

His old taxi was noisy and dirty. It spread smoke everywhere. One day his boss bought a funny new car with three wheels and told him to drive it. The new tricycle does not use fuel. It is powered by sun.

When the boss said the tricycle used solar power, Bakary did not believe him. Powered by the sun? No petrol? No gas? How could it work?

The tricycle taxis are powered by a solar panel on the top of the car. When it runs out of energy, the driver switches to a battery that is powered by the sun too. Now there are a few tricycle taxis in the streets. They are nice and new. They make no noise and do not pollute. The costumers love them because they pay half the price. The sun powered tricycles are cheaper to run!

Solar power is everywhere these days.

Bakary's cousin lives outside of the urban area in Abidjan. There are no electricity cables that go to his house. At night, he had to use candles and kerosene lamps to light the house.

Now Bakary's cousin has got a new solar panel kit. The solar panel is connected to the lights inside his house, an electric fan and the charger for his mobile phone. It is a pay-as-you-go scheme.

There is a counter on the battery that tells when he needs to make a payment. He pays using his mobile phone. It's the same amount he used to spend on candles and kerosene lamps. But in a few years, he will finish paying for his solar panel kit. And his solar power will be free.

Bakary thinks the future is bright like the sun.

### New words for this article

To spread	cover a wide area
Powered by	using energy from
To switch	to change
Solar panel kit	equipment to install a solar panel

### Comprehension Questions

*Indiquez si les expressions suivantes sont vraies (True) ou fausses (False).*

1. Bakary used to smoke everywhere
2. Bakary was surprised with the new tricycle
3. The tricycle uses solar power and batteries
4. Customers like the new taxis because they don't pollute
5. Bakary's cousin gets free electricity

Answers  
Comprehension questions

1	False
2	True
3	True
4	False
5	False