

## Device harnesses solar power to disinfect water

Thursday, January 08, 2009

LONDON — The *NewScientist* online science news blog, Short Sharp Science blog, made mention in its **January 8 entry** of a green-tech device that harnesses the sun's power to disinfect drinking water.

The device is Swedish-made and named "Solvatten™," which is Swedish for "sunwater." According to the **Solvatten Web site**, the device is considered easy to use: The user pours several liters of water into its two tanks and places the device in the sun for up to six hours.

*NewScientist's* online technology reporter Colin Barras writes, "An indicator signals it is safe to drink once the temperature inside has reached 55 C [131 F]. That heating, together with exposure to UV radiation, helps destroy harmful bacteria, and the water is also filtered during pouring to remove particulates."

The product water is then "safe water" as defined by the World Health Organization's Guidelines for Safe Water (less than 1 *E. coli* per 100 milliliters of water), the Solvatten Web site says.

The device works on cloudy days, but it may take up to 6 hours to reach temperature, and it does not work at all when it is rainy, Barra wrote.