Our group’s final design for the solar dryer tray featured two wooden frames (one on top of the aluminum mesh sheet and another frame on the bottom). We were unable to bring all of our design’s attributes to life because we were not sure how to incorporate a clamping system using the tools we had available to us at the time. However, our hope was for the aluminum mesh to slide in-between the aforementioned wooden frames and then have a clamping system lock the mesh in place so it wouldn’t move around or lose too much rigidity. Once you were done drying your fruits and vegetables, you could simply undo the clamp, slide the mesh (with the finished products) out, and immediately put a newly loaded sheet in while the original sheet is being picked and cleaned. This efficient design will speed up the production of foods, and thus facilitate the distribution process. The reason aluminum mesh was chosen to hold the fruits and vegetables in the dryer is because it is cheap, strong, and food safe. The gaps in the mesh are large enough to allow moisture to leak out of the products but small enough so that the fruits and vegetables don’t fall through the tray.

Group Eight, has created a beautiful, elegant solar dryer, which will soon save thousands of pounds of food from spoilage in the African Nation of Kenya. This brilliant success did not come overnight. Our group was created on a warm Wednesday afternoon. To understand our work dynamic as a group we created a report on the design and creation of the Harley Davidson V-Rod. We subsequently created a group charter that detailed how the group would operate and what the expectations were. Our next accomplishment was the production of a groups PowerPoint presentation that explored the relationship between technology, society, and the environment. The following class period we were introduced to solar dryer tray design project. First we asked questions about the project, which were answered by the design team behind the solar dryer. Then each member of the group submitted ideas for the design of the tray. We analytically picked the best design through the use of a decision matrix. We then expounded upon the winning design with sketches and eventually a model. We detailed our findings in a webpage report, which you are now reading. We also created a brochure to sell our idea to the solar dryer design team.