

# **Project: EKOenergy for Russia**

## **establishing a system for electricity tracking in Russia**

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### **Contact persons**

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### **Goals**

- Developing a renewable electricity market in Russia, based on a tracking system that fulfills the quality criteria listed by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance
- Supporting the development of renewable energy in Russia

### **Background**

EKOenergy is the only international ecolabel for renewable electricity. It is a mark of quality which comes on top of electricity tracking certificates (Guarantees of Origin in Europe, IREC-certificates in many other parts of the world). We started in Northern-Europe in 2013 and now we are gradually increasing our global reach. EKOenergy is explicitly mentioned in the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, as a way for companies to do more with their electricity purchases.

See also [www.ekoenergy.org](http://www.ekoenergy.org)

Russian organisations have been involved in the development of our label since the very beginning (mainly due to the geographical location: our Secretariat is situated in Helsinki, Finland). In 2015 we decided to start looking for opportunities to introduce EKOenergy to the Russian market.

This means the necessity of a reliable electricity tracking system (to avoid double counting). We share this need with companies interested in proving green electricity purchases for their Scope 2 carbon accounting. Setting up such a tracking system requires the approval and/or cooperation of the Russian federal state.

## **What happened so far**

### September 2015 - December 2015:

Interviewing international companies active in Russia, studying the legal situation, contacting Russian administration and companies active on the Russian electricity market, contacting Russian environmental NGOs....

### January 2016:

Development of Russian texts and presentations about electricity tracking and about scope 2 accounting:

- Youtube video about electricity tracking <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNBLTR-zNok>
- A Russian summary of the GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance [http://www.ekoenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Summary\\_GHGprotocol\\_Scope2\\_Russian.pdf](http://www.ekoenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Summary_GHGprotocol_Scope2_Russian.pdf)
- A Russian course about Green electricity for LEED.

February - April 2016: We formally asked the Russian NP Market Council to develop a tracking system which fulfils the quality criteria of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. This request was followed by several phone meetings and video conferences. The EKOenergy secretariat provided information on the main tracking systems (REC, Guarantees of Origin, IRECs) and on the needs of large consumers.

May 2016: The EKOenergy Secretariat organized a workshop about electricity tracking for representatives of the Russian Market Council. There were presentations by Fingrid, Grexel, the I-REC Secretariat and etc.

June - December 2016: Further discussions with relevant stakeholders.

## **NP Market Council?**

The Market Council is a mixed public-private organisation, managed by the electricity utilities, large electricity consumers, the grid operator and experts. It has several regulatory tasks, appointed to it by Russian Federal laws. E.g. the NP Market Council runs a support scheme for renewable energy, based on a green certificate system.

See <http://www.en.np-sr.ru/>

## **Situation**

Representatives of the NP Market Council are communicating with Russian authorities on different levels. We are quite sure something will come out of this, but there still remain open questions:

- which system they will use (e.g. IREC, or own system)
- what the timing will be (although we still hope that Russian transaction will be possible around the summer of 2017)
- whether changes in the legislation are needed.

## **What can we do together?**

- Collecting contact information of persons/companies interested in purchasing renewable electricity in Russia. Having names helps to push the administration and the decision makers. Please contact Steven.Vanholme@sll.fi and Olga.Usova@sll.fi
- Exchanging relevant information. We are in each case eager to keep you well informed about the results of our "EKOenergy for Russia" -project.
- Quantifying the interest and the willingness to pay (confidentially of course)
- Preparing for potential pilot projects
- Brainstorming collectively or bilaterally about with which centrals we want to get started. E.g. how to deal with the hydropower? Russia is the 5th largest hydropower producer in the world. If we bring all these volumes on the market, there won't be a market at all. (Unsurprisingly, EKOenergy will promote itself as an instrument to create added value)

## **Languages**

All our information is also available in Russian. Contact Olga.Usova@sll.fi for more information

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