

Light and power for rural schools in Madagascar



The solar kiosks are funded by EKOenergy users: companies, households and cities.

Electricity and domestic lighting are taken for granted by many of us. However, in rural Madagascar, almost 95% of the population does not have access to electricity.

Text: Mounia Tonazzini
Pictures: CEAS

In 2017, EKOenergy donated 25,000 € to the Swiss Organization *Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer* (CEAS) for the installation of solar kiosks in three rural schools in Madagascar. These are located in three villages in Northern and Central Madagascar: Amberomanga, Mahambo and Tsitakondaza.

More than 500 pupils directly benefit from this project, as the availability of artificial light will improve their learning conditions. It also allows parents to attend evening classes after work days.

Having access to electricity is essential for our day-to-day life.

"There is a whole economic and social aspect in it: how can one run a small level economic activity or a microenterprise without electricity?" asks **Patrick Kohler** from CEAS.

The project does not only benefit children by helping with their education, but brings also other positive outcomes: local people can use the charging facilities to charge their personal electronic

devices, get refrigerated products and have access to radio and TV, getting a better connection to the rest of the world. In total, nearly 1,000 local people will benefit from these installations.

The installation of solar kiosks also has a high social value. The locals can meet in the evenings for cultural events, and the presence of light at night brings security.

CEAS ensures the sustainability of the project by involving the local community in the management and maintenance of the kiosks, especially via their local partner. This strengthens the locals' skills in carpentry and electromechanics, among other things.

EKOenergy is proud to work with CEAS, which supervises both the social and environmental dimension of the project.

The project is funded by EKOenergy's users via the Climate Fund, which supports annual renewable energy projects all over the world. The Fund is one of the ecolabel's ways to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Climate Fund Projects



Focus on renewables and energy poverty (Global Goals 7 & 13)



New projects annually in developing countries



Run and monitored by trusted NGOs



Selected by an independent jury



In 2017, the Fund donated 190,000 € for nine new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Fund

EKOenergy – the international ecolabel for renewable energy

EKOenergy is [the international ecolabel for energy](#). The nonprofit ecolabel is supported by a growing international group of over 40 environmental organisations.

EKOenergy not only excludes fossil fuels and nuclear power, but demands strict [sustainability criteria for the renewable energy](#) production. It also supports new renewable energy production through its Climate Fund.

Ecolabelled electricity is [available for all types of organisations](#) and international corporations. It is a cost-efficient way to reduce your organisation’s carbon footprint and communicate about your choice by using the well-known ecolabel.

EKOenergy users include large international businesses, such as Yves Rocher, SAP, VMware, Genelec and L’Oréal, as well cities and other public organisations.



Sustainability criteria – additional value for our planet

	EKOenergy	Other renewable	Mixed sources
New renewable energy production via our Climate Fund	✓	?	-
Only the most climate friendly bioenergy	✓	?	-
Wind power outside bird and nature areas	✓	?	-
Hydropower takes into account migratory fish. River restoration projects via our Environmental Fund .	✓	?	-
Renewable energy tracked by GOs, RECS, I-RECS	✓	✓	-
Wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, bioenergy	✓	✓	?
Fossil fuels, nuclear, possibly renewables	-	-	✓

Endorsed by other standards

EKOenergy is mentioned by the most well-known international environmental standards, such as Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Greenkey for hotels and LEED-certification for buildings.

“EKOenergy represents the [best available option](#) for the sustainable and additional consumption of renewable electricity within Europe.”



“Ecolabels are a way for companies to do more with their purchases. EKOenergy, mentioned by the GHG Protocol Scope 2 guidance, is such an option: it is [a mark of quality](#) which comes on top of tracking certificates.”



“A growing number of hotels in Europe have already switched to EKOenergy and include the EKOenergy logo in their communication with their guests. Follow their lead and [go the extra mile](#).”



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