

# Home lighting systems for rural villages in India



Through its Climate Fund, EKOenergy donated 17,000 € to the Indian NGO Gram Vikas, to bring light and water to rural areas. Involvement of local youth is a key element of the project.

Text: Anna Kokareva  
Picture: Gram Vikas

Rural households of the Kalahandi district in Odisha, India, are hugely affected by extreme poverty and malnourishment. Many attempts to improve living conditions have had to be cancelled due to the dismal state of local infrastructure. To change this situation, EKOenergy has granted €17,000 to the local NGO Gram Vikas for a project that will significantly improve the lives of at least 120 households.

The project aims to provide a sustainable drinking water supply using solar pumps, for rural villages that are not connected to the grid or lack reliable electricity supply. The capacity of these installations is approximately 5kW. Bringing water closer to homes will reduce the time and energy spent collecting it. As a result, the local population will be able to devote more time to their families and social activities.

For the second part of the project, Gram Vikas is introducing solar powered home lighting systems to several of the villages.

About 120 families that previously didn't have access to electricity, have received solar lighting systems. To ensure the participation of the community, Gram Vikas asks for a 10% contribution from the community during the project development phase. This can be in form of labour or collection of local materials. The households that participate in the program also make predefined monthly contributions, set in the monthly village committee meetings.

To guarantee the sustainability of the project, 12 young people from six villages in the Kalahandi district have been appointed as solar light operators by the Village Development Committees. Gram Vikas organised training sessions where these 12 learnt about troubleshooting and preventative maintenance of the solar home lighting units.

The operators are in charge of the installation, maintenance and repair of the home lighting systems in their respective communities.

## Climate Fund Projects



Focus on renewables and energy poverty (Global Goals 6,7&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 <a href="#">Climate Fund</a>	✓	?	-
Only the most climate friendly bioenergy	✓	?	-
Wind power outside bird and nature areas	✓	?	-
Hydropower takes into account migratory fish. River restoration projects via our <a href="#">Environmental Fund</a> .	✓	?	-
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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