

Clean and reliable energy at schools



Project duration: 2 years

EKOenergy is funding the installation of solar panels at schools in Tanzania. Reliable and sustainable energy sources at schools can improve the quality and accessibility of education in the area.

In 2011, the Italian organisation Istituto Oikos received EU funding to install a small hydro turbine near the Ngare-nanyuki secondary school in Meru District, Northern Tanzania.

The turbine runs in an irrigation channel and provides the school with a basic electricity service. However, the water flow (and energy production) fluctuates throughout the year so the school often cannot access power during the dry season.

In order to overcome this problem, EKOenergy donated 10,000 € in 2014 to add 3 kW of solar panels to the system. This will complement the hydropower and allow energy to be produced during the dry season. A smart inverter is used to select the source of energy based on availability at any moment.

"The smart inverter helps us to give power according to the priorities of the need and it also helps us to make sustainability of the energy supply of the school," says James Abraham Somi, Director of the School.

In the same area there are many schools either without access to electricity or using expensive and polluting diesel generators. Though cheap to buy in comparison to solar panels, diesel generators are unreliable, polluting and require fuel which is a constant drain on capital. Solar panels, on the other hand, are a much cheaper option over the long term because they are reliable and have next to zero running costs.

For this reason, Oikos started an ambitious follow-up project aiming to install solar panels in 20 secondary schools in the Arusha Region. With a cheaper and more reliable power source, teachers are able to plan more long term so improving accessibility and quality of education.

In March 2016, EKOenergy donated 30,000 € to this project which led to solar installations in 5 schools. Today, there are 15,000 students in the Arusha region whose education is powered by reliable and sustainable electricity. This work is made possible thanks to the users of the EKOenergy ecolabel.

Text: Nicolò Sancassiani

Pictures: Istituto Oikos

Climate Fund Projects



Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals



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 Climate 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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