

Solar water pumps for women farmers



Project duration: 2 years

In 2019, EKOenergy granted 25,000 € to Fondation Énergies pour le Monde (FONDEM) for their ÉGALES project, supporting women farmers from Ouonck Community, in the Lower Casamance region of Senegal.

Text: Quentin Le Thiec
Photo: FONDEM

In the Sub-saharan region, women are responsible for 75 % of the overall agricultural work. Lack of modern infrastructures such as water pumps limits women's farming activities, increasing the workload to find water and keeping them in precarious economic situations. The impacts of climate change make the situation even more difficult. That's why FONDEM joined forces with local authorities and Ouonck Solar Electrification Management Committee (CGESO) to support 600 women farmers by using renewable energy to provide irrigation, which was done manually before.

With EKOenergy's support, FONDEM and partners installed solar-powered water pumping equipment in 7 gardens to reduce the time and effort the farmers spend. The project elaborates on a project that we previously financed in the same region, in 2017. In addition to increasing the profitability of the farms concerned, these water pumps showcase the use of renewable energy for agriculture in developing countries.

Each of the installed solar-powered pumps is around 750 to 1,000 Wp, totalling to about 7,500 to 10,000 Wp for the whole project. Access to electricity helps improve working conditions of the women and it's also expected

to help increase and diversify their revenue.

Building on the previous project of 2017, the ÉGALES project goes further to help the women deepen their management and entrepreneurship skills, to raise awareness of gender issues and sustainability and also to ensure food security to Ouonck community.

Since the direct beneficiaries are closely involved in the project, they can take ownership of the water pumps, ensuring the sustainability of the project.

FONDEM writes: *"The objective is twofold. Firstly, the project helps to reduce the effects of global warming. [...] Secondly, ÉGALES is developing a method of market gardening that will be able to adapt to climate constraints. By raising awareness among women's farming organisations [...] the project ensures the preservation of water tables weakened by global warming."*

Thanks to our licensees and users, we are able to provide financing for projects such as this one to address climate action via renewable energy to achieve social benefits. EKOenergy is proud to contribute to this project supporting women's empowerment and entrepreneurship.

Our Climate Fund



Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals



New projects annually in developing countries



Projects run and monitored by trusted NGOs



Selected by an independent jury



In 2019, the Fund granted 245,000 € for nine new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Climate Fund

EKOenergy - the global ecolabel for renewable energy

EKOenergy is [the international ecolabel](#) for energy (electricity, gas, heat and cold). We are a non-profit organisation working to fight climate change, protect biodiversity and realise the Sustainable Development Goals.

Energy sold with the EKOenergy ecolabel fulfils strict [sustainability criteria](#). Through our ecolabel we also raise money for our Climate Fund, which is used to finance new renewable energy projects in developing countries.

EKOenergy-labelled energy is sold by licensed energy companies and is [available in over 50 countries worldwide](#). Many consumers of EKOenergy-labelled energy choose to use our ecolabel on their website or products to demonstrate their commitment to a 100% renewable and sustainable world.

EKOenergy users include large international businesses such as SAP, Tetra Pak, VMware, Workday and Genelec as well as cities, public organisations and individual households.



Sustainability criteria: additional value for our planet

	EKOenergy	Other renewable energy	Grid mix
Recommended by environmental organisations	✓	?	-
Extra criteria to minimise the impact of energy production on nature. For example, hydropower installations with fish passes and wind turbines outside important bird areas	✓	?	-
Renewable energy tracked by EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs (In line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)	✓	✓	-
Contributes to renewable energy projects in developing countries, advancing the realisation of multiple Sustainable development goals	✓	-	-
Available and recognised worldwide	✓	-	-
Supports the promotion of a transition to renewable energy worldwide	✓	-	-

Endorsed by other standards

EKOenergy is recommended by many international environmental standards such as CDP, the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Greenkey for hotels and LEED-certification for buildings.

"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](#)."

"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."

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



info@ekoenergy.org | www.ekoenergy.org