

# Solar power for Bethlehem



EKOenergy is promoting renewable energy, not only as a clean alternative for consumers, but also as a starting point for people who do not have any access to a reliable source of electricity.

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Photo: ARIJ

Palestine is facing several major difficulties when it comes to energy. High electricity prices and power outages particularly affect low income households. While many countries worldwide are promoting the use of renewables, Palestine has limited access to sustainable energy sources and general awareness of these technologies is low.

EKOenergy and the Finnish organisation Siemenpuu provided 30,000 € to the non-profit organisation Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem (ARIJ). Through the project, ARIJ aims to strengthen the self-reliance of Palestinians and to promote sustainable development in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Although Palestine is mostly sunny and has great potential for solar energy, it imports 95% of its electricity from countries dependent on fossil fuels. By providing solar panels, the project aims to increase the standard of living, with better heating, cooling and lighting

for households. To achieve this, the population first needed to be informed about the photovoltaic systems and about the process of the project.

As a lot of individuals do not have access to capital, a revolving fund has been established. Families pay back the cost of the PV system over the period of 5 to 6 years. When the cost is completely paid, the money is used for new PV systems for other families. For the families involved, the electricity cost will decrease by more than 60% over the photovoltaic lifetime.

The Institute is able to finance a local clean technology officer for two years. This person will monitor and evaluate the project.

By setting up events, ARIJ raises awareness about sustainable energy. The goal of the revolving fund is to build a capacity for these kinds of projects to grow and to provide long-term solutions to Palestine's electricity challenges.

## 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 granted 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. 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 40 countries worldwide](#). Many of the 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	Grid mix
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 EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs. (in line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)	✓	✓	-
Wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, bioenergy	✓	✓	?
Fossil fuels, nuclear, possibly renewables	-	-	✓

## 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."*

