

Smart solar kiosks in Togo



In 2016 and 2017 EKOenergy granted € 25,000 to the Belgian nonprofit organisation Solar without Borders (Solar zonder Grenzen) and their Togolese partner Solergie.

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Picture: Solar without Borders

The money has been used to finance the installation of the first smart solar kiosks in the poorest rural areas of Togo. In total, six smart solar kiosks were installed in the villages of Goubi, Billa, Wadanyi, Fazao and Latho.

Between 2011 and 2016, Solar without Borders installed 150 'basic' solar kiosks in Togo. Solar kiosks are constructions equipped with solar panels which are centrally located in villages without electricity supply. Local residents can rent a rechargeable lamp and charge it using solar power. Other devices, such as mobile phones, can be charged for a small fee. Each solar kiosk is run by a self-employed local operator trained by Solar without Borders. The kiosk operator can make a decent living out of this, which is an incentive for local entrepreneurship.

Smart kiosks are the 'next generation' of solar kiosks. Up to eight neighbouring houses are directly connected to the battery, forming a sort of minigrid. The neighbours prepay for the electricity with their mobile phones, and can use this electricity for lighting and for small electrical devices. It is no longer necessary

to go to the charging point. A partnership with the local phone operator Moov helps with the process.

"Thanks to these six new kiosks nearly 300 people from small communities have access to electricity in the same way as people in grid connected areas", emphasizes Bert Bernolet, project manager of Solar without Borders. With a power of 220V, the villagers can now do many more activities, such as studying and working, even after sunset.

The overall aim of this project is to diminish rural poverty by providing electricity for locals to establish small business operations.

"The system is very simple, but locals found it a bit difficult to understand at the beginning. Nevertheless, after some explanations they were so enthusiastic that the demand started to increase all over the region", adds Bernolet. *"At the moment we have a waiting list including more than 40 requests from Togo, where we have started to roll out the project on a bigger scale, inspired by the first successes."*

Climate Fund Projects



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All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Fund

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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	✓	-	-

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

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"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."

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