

SOLAR POWER FOR AMAZONIAN INDIGENOUS HEALTH POSTS



Project duration: 2 years

In 2021, EKOenergy granted 18,500 € to the Amazon Conservation Team (ACT). Our grant was used to install solar energy systems in two community health posts used by rural indigenous people in the Colombian Amazon.

Text: Aisling Ffrench
Photo: ACT

Over 52% of Colombia's national territory is made up of Non-Interconnected Zones (ZNIs), areas which are outside the reach of the electrical grid. Close to 1.8 million people live in these zones, of whom only 35% have access to electricity. Efforts from the Colombian government to rectify this issue have been minimal, with most of the provided solutions consisting of harmful, diesel-heavy fuels. Health services are particularly constrained by the lack of electricity and hence have been unable to meet the growing demand for healthcare caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2017, ACT has been working in the Colombian Amazon to provide solar energy to indigenous communities based in ZNIs. They have a long-term presence in indigenous reserves and as such have built close relationships with the local communities. It was through their thorough understanding of these communities that they were able to identify two health posts that were most in need of electrification, one in Mariápolis and one in Villazul.

With the 18,500 € grant ACT sought from EKOenergy, these two off-grid community health posts now have power. EKOenergy's grant was used to install 2.8 kW solar

energy systems which power microscopes, refrigeration for medicines, computers, radio, and lights. Technical equipment and personnel were first transported from the city of Villavicencio to the Aracuara region, and from there were transported to the beneficiary villages by boat.

The two systems benefit over 600 individuals from 6 indigenous ethnic groups who now receive their primary healthcare from the newly electrified posts. Formal indigenous leaders were trained on how to maintain the installations. The communities themselves are in charge of the overall care of the installations, with assistance from ACT if needed.

The provision of clean, renewable energy is essential to these communities, who are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. It serves the dual purpose of ensuring they are receiving electrical power whilst also protecting the natural environment that these indigenous people are reliant on.

We thank all EKOenergy users that make projects such as these possible. As more people choose to take additional action by using EKOenergy-labelled energy, the bigger difference we can make.

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 2021, the Fund granted 254,178 € for 13 new projects



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

EKOenergy - the global ecolabel for renewable energy

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

Energy with the EKOenergy ecolabel fulfils additional [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's network of authorised sellers makes EKOenergy-labelled energy easily [available in over 65 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, VMware, Tetra Pak, Pampers, Workday, SCHOTT and the Iliad Group, 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 global 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."

