Solar power for fishermen

In Siaya County, villages lack basic infrastructure, suffer from malnutrition and water-borne diseases and lack access to electricity despite rapid electrification elsewhere in the country. Lake Victoria is an important source of freshwater fish for the local subsistence fishermen but without electricity, the fishermen’s catch is completely at the mercy of commercial fish buyers. Since they can’t refrigerate their catch, they end up making little to no profit. Lack of electricity also makes lighting the biggest expense in a fishermen’s budget, typically accounting for 10-15% of the total household income. Furthermore, half of the fishermen’s income is spent on the kerosene they use to fish at night. Off-grid renewable energy presents a multitude of opportunities for vulnerable populations, including increased well-being. The award-winning charity Ace Africa is increasingly prioritising the utilisation of renewable energy for rural communities in Kenya, and they have identified one of the fish landing beaches in the Luanda K’Otieno area for implementing the installation. With the grant from EKOenergy, Ace Africa installed an off-grid box, a modular unit that provides renewable energy, wi-fi and purified water. It produces 12-30 kWh of electricity per day and can pump and treat 1000 litres per hour. It also includes batteries to store 5-50 kWh. One unit benefits 400 families (about 2000 people), providing them with electricity, internet, and sterilised water for only 0.18 $ per day per family on a pay-as-you-go basis. Before installing the off-grid box, Ace Africa conducted regular meetings with the Siaya County fishing communities in order to receive feedback, integrate input from community volunteers and plan accordingly. The location for the off-grid box was selected based on community needs, existing projects, recommendation from provincial administration and the ability of the local community to commit their own funds for the initial works. We thank all users and sellers of EKOenergy -labelled energy for helping us support vulnerable, off-grid communities in developing countries.

Project duration: one year

In 2021, EKOenergy granted 27,000 € to the NGO Ace Africa to provide solar power to the rural fishermen of Siaya County, near Lake Victoria in Kenya. The installation enables the local population to store fish and have access to clean water and lighting.

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 2021, the Fund granted 254,178 € for 13 new projects
All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Fund

Text: Milena Basso
Photo: Ace Africa
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EKOenergy</th>
<th>Other renewable energy</th>
<th>Grid mix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommended by environmental organisations</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable energy tracked by EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs (in line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributes to renewable energy projects in developing countries, advancing the realisation of multiple Sustainable Development Goals</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available and recognised worldwide</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports the promotion of a transition to renewable energy worldwide</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.”