Cholera Prevention with Solar Solutions in Malawi's Thyolo district

Project duration: 6 months

Photo: RENAMA

In 2023, EKOenergy granted €39,720 to Renew'N'Able Malawi (RENAMA), a nonprofit, to install solar-powered pump systems with UV filters in five schools in Thyolo, Malawi.

Malawi has recently experienced a severe cholera outbreak, primarily attributed to the lack of access to clean drinking water, according to the local Ministry of Health. In response, RENAMA, funded by EKOenergy's Climate Fund, undertook a vital initiative to enhance water accessibility and quality in five schools in Malawi's Thyolo district.

The project involved installing a 1.5 kW solar system, a 1 horsepower solar submersible water pump, a 10,000 litres water storage tank with a solar-powered UV filter, and a network of pipework and water points in each school. This comprehensive approach facilitated the distribution of safe and clean water to all five schools, directly benefiting over 8,000 students and providing a water source for the surrounding community with a total population of over 66,000.

Community involvement was integral throughout the project, beginning with stakeholder meetings for community support and sustainability planning in August 2023. Over the following months, project staff, together with the local community, completed the required construction work, and installations were set in place. On December 12, 2023, clean water started flowing from the taps, bringing excitement throughout the communities, with many experiencing the simple joy of drinking clean water from a tap for the first time.

RENAMA placed a strong emphasis on training and continuous support to ensure a lasting impact in the communities. Training on basic maintenance and troubleshooting was given to all water committee members in each school. Parents and community members contribute through small payments that will cover costs for any eventual repairs that may be needed.

The project's impact aligns with multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). By enhancing water infrastructure and mitigating cholera transmission, this initiative not only addresses immediate health concerns but also contributes to broader societal development goals.

We extend our thanks to EKOenergy users and sellers. We wouldn't be able to fund projects such as this one without your choice of EKOenergy.

Our Climate Fund

- Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals
- New projects annually in lower-income countries
- Projects run and monitored by trusted NGOs
- Selected through a transpartent process
- In 2023, EKOenergy approved grants for 21 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 80 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 Microsoft, SAP, VMware, 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."

Green Key

"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."

CDP

"EKOenergy represents the best available option for the sustainable and additional consumption of renewable electricity within Europe."

U.S. Green Building Council LEED USGBC

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