

Solar-powered honey processing plant for Ugandan farmers



Project duration: 12 months

Photo: Green Empowerment

In 2023, EKOenergy granted €26,585 to the NGO Green Empowerment to support the construction of a solar-powered honey processing plant in Uganda. Through the increased productivity in honey processing, beekeepers were able to double their income.

Access to affordable and clean energy is a gamechanger in alleviating poverty in rural communities, as exemplified in the Terego district in Northern Uganda, where beekeeping serves as a significant income source for smallholder farmers.

The area lacks a grid connection, and with poor road networks, farmers faced significant challenges accessing the nearest honey processing facilities in Arua, a town over 60 km away. As a result, farmers either manually processed honey at home or were compelled to sell their unprocessed honey to middlemen at prices 50% below market value.

To address these challenges, Green Empowerment and their local partner The Victim Relief Alliance collaborated to establish a solar-powered honey-processing plant. To power the plant and other essential devices, a solar energy system funded by EKOenergy was installed on the facility's roof. This system includes 19 solar PV panels, totaling 10.45 kWp, complemented by batteries providing 10.6 kWh of storage capacity. The electrification of the production process has led to a significant improvement in the quality of honey products.

Encouraged by Green Empowerment, the farmers have established a legally registered cooperative consisting of 108 members from both refugee and host communities. This

cooperative has improved coordination, facilitated the exchange of ideas and resources, and bolstered their negotiating power in marketing their products. With access to a reliable source of power, the cooperative can explore additional revenue sources, such as phone charging or selling of cold soft drinks. Moreover, the processing plant has attracted interest from other farmers not in the cooperative, who either pay a fee per volume processed or sell their honey to the cooperative at fair market prices. This expansion is expected to benefit an additional 500 farmers.

To ensure the sustainability of the project and following the community-owned renewable energy model, cooperative members underwent training in the operation of the facility and maintenance of the equipment.

Recognising the project's success and the growing interest from stakeholders, The Victim Relief Alliance plans to establish the site as a training centre for beekeeping-related businesses. This initiative aims to enhance farmers' skills and bolster honey productivity which is viewed as a stable, climate-smart source of income for communities in the region.

Thanks to all consumers of EKOenergy-labelled energy. Life-changing projects such as this one are only possible with you!

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 transparent process



In 2023, EKOenergy approved grants for 20 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."

"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."

