Solar power and clean water for four rural communities in Nigeria

Photo: CREACC-NG

Project duration: 10 months

In 2025, EKOenergy granted €58,500 from its Climate Fund to the Nigerian NGO Centre for Renewable Energy and Action on Climate Change (CREACC-NG) for a project bringing solar power, clean water and sanitation to four rural communities in Nigeria: Baure in Kano State, Magarya and Fango in Bauchi State, and Akinlalu in Osun State.

Across rural Nigeria, many communities still live without a connection to the electricity grid or a reliable source of safe drinking water. Energy poverty pushes households towards costly and polluting alternatives for lighting and power, while distant or unsafe water sources affect health, hygiene, and the time left for school and work. These pressures tend to fall hardest on women and children, who usually carry the burden of collecting water and fuel.

The communities supported by this project faced these same challenges. In response, CREACC-NG, an NGO that has succcessfully implemented various solar EKOenergy-funded projects over the past years, submitted a convincing proposal to our Climate Fund. The goal was to provide renewable energy, water, sanitation, and livelihoods in a combined way, rather than treating them as separate problems.

Electrification was at the heart of the work. In total, around 13.5 kWp of solar photovoltaic capacity was installed across the four communities. In Baure, a solar-powered water centre, water kiosk, sanitation facilities, solar-powered shops and charging services now support daily life, alongside environmental restoration activities. Magarya received a solar-powered water system and kiosk, eco-friendly sanitation, handwashing stations, and infrastructure for providing water to livestock and to a tree nursery. In Fango, previously without any electricity access, solar-powered charging infrastructure brought reliable power to the community for the first time. In Akinlalu, integrated solar-powered water, sanitation, energy and livelihood infrastructure improved access to essential services. Across the four communities, these systems eased the daily effort of fetching water and fuel, improved sanitation and health, and opened up new opportunities for local income.

Community ownership was central to the design. Village Elders Committees and Project Implementation Committees were set up in each community to oversee operations, and members were trained to operate and maintain the facilities.

By combining renewable energy, clean water, sanitation, environmental restoration and new income opportunities, the project contributes to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

We thank CREACC-NG and the participating communities, as well as all sellers and users of EKOenergy worldwide. Projects like this wouldn't be possible without your support.

EKOenergy's Climate Fund

- Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals
- New projects annually in low- and middle-income countries
- Projects run and monitored by trusted NGOs
- Selected through a transparent process
- In 2025, EKOenergy approved grants for 16 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 low- and middle-income 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, Pampers, Mercedes-Benz, 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

EKOenergy

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