Solar-powered water systems for better education and health in Cameroon

Project duration: 5 months

Photo: ISUDEV

In May 2025, EKOenergy granted €35,530 from its Climate Fund to the Cameroonian nonprofit organisation ISUDEV (Initiatives for Sustainable Development). This grant enabled them to install two solar-powered water systems, providing clean drinking water to local schools, a health centre and the surrounding communities in Cameroon's South West Region. The project benefits over 10,000 people.

Before the project began, water availability in the project area was critical: rising temperatures caused streams to dry up, and some communities went weeks or even months without a reliable water supply. Residents depended on unsafe wells, ponds, or streams, often walking several kilometres to fetch contaminated water unfit for drinking. As a result, people faced serious sanitation and hygiene challenges, and their overall health and well-being were at risk.

To address this urgent need, ISUDEV, with financial support from EKOenergy, successfully implemented a project to install solar-powered water systems. They drilled two boreholes, set up 2 arrays of solar panels of 2 kWp each, and installed 2 submersible solar pumps of 2 HP each. The systems now providing a clean and reliable water source to three schools, one health centre, and nearby water-stressed communities. The project directly improved the lives of approximately 10,000 residents.

Since the launch of the systems, schools have experienced many positive changes. Previously, many children spent up to 1.5 hours each day fetching water to meet their basic needs, which significantly reduced attendance rates. Since installing the water systems, school attendance has increased considerably. Moreover, girls can now stay in school throughout the day during menstruation, as access to water and handwashing stations allows them to manage their personal hygiene more efficiently.

Access to clean water has also led to significant improvements in the conditions in the local healthcare centre. The lack of water for cleaning meant a serious risk to patients' health in many ways. Now hospital staff can wash their hands, maintain ward hygiene, and treat wounds, all of which contribute to faster, safer, and more comfortable recovery. Additionally, the occurrence of diarrhea and typhoid among the local population has decreased.

This project is an example of how renewable energy can support the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

Thank you to everyone involved in making this great initiative happen. Thank you also to all EKOenergy sellers and buyers.

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

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