Solar-powered irrigation for a rural community in Nepal

Project duration: 1 year

In 2022, EKOenergy granted 35,000 € to Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) Nepal. The grant was used to install a solar-powered water-lifting irrigation system in the village of Pali, in the Dullu Municipality of Dailekh district.

Photo: LI-BIRD

While food security has improved in Nepal in the past decades, hunger and lack of nutrition still prove to be a major problem. Recently, the covid pandemic, inflation triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war and climate change have deteriorated the hunger problem again.

In many regions, lack of irrigation is a key barrier to crop cultivation, with most lands left barren outside of monsoon season. Water is a plentiful resource in Nepal, however, there are few means to transport it to mountainous regions.

That's why the NGO LI-BIRD applied for a grant from EKOenergy to finance a solar-powered water lifting system in one of the villages where they are active.

LI-BIRD has a proven record of reducing poverty, and helping communities transition from subsistence to profitable farming. They have previously established over 20 solar-powered irrigation systems in rural communities, benefitting a total of over 700 households.

For this project, LI-BIRD targeted Pali Village, an off-grid village in the Dullu Municipality, Dailekh district. Pali's soil is fertile, however, they lacked irrigation which hindered their crop yield. EKOenergy's grant was used to install a solar lifting system of 34.65 kW, able to pump 50,000 liters to a total height of 450 metres. The system is powered by 84 solar panels of 410 W capacity each. They also constructed 2 water collection tanks, of 20,000 and 30,000 liters capacity.

The system is able to irrigate an area of 20 hectares, benefiting 123 households, of which 65 are Dalits and ethnic minorities.

For the implementation of the project, LI-BIRD collaborated with Social Service Centre (SOSEC) Nepal Dailekh, another local NGO that focuses on the improvement of the socio-economic situation of rural communities. SOSEC will be involved in the further management and the maintenance of the installations. They also helped set up a repair and maintenance fund. 123 local households contribute to this fund, which will ensure the long-term sustainability of the installation.

The farming community can now take full advantage of the soil's fertility and are not at the mercy of weather fluctuations.

This project and many others are financed thanks to the users of EKOenergy-labelled renewables. We are grateful for the increasing interest in our ecolabel and as we grow, we are able to support more projects such as this one.

Our Climate Fund

- Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals
- New projects annually in developing countries
- Projects run and monitored by trusted NGOs
- Selected by an independent jury
- In 2022, the Fund granted 425,728 € for 15 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 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

	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."

Green Key

CDP

U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL LEED USGBC

EKOenergy

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