

Solar Power for Food Security and Income Generation in the Amazon



Project duration: 10 months

Photo: Practical Action

In 2023, EKOenergy's €39,000 grant enabled Practical Action to install solar-powered cooling systems in two fishing communities in the Bolivian Amazon, enhancing food security and income generation through sustainable energy solutions.

In the remote Amazonian communities along the Beni River in Bolivia, families depend on fishing and small-scale farming as their primary sources of food and income. However, the lack of reliable, affordable electricity and the considerable distances to markets make it difficult to preserve fish and other perishable foods. As a result, families often have to sell their catch at below-market prices or deal with food spoilage, significantly reducing their income and access to food.

Addressing these challenges Practical Action, an international development NGO, and its local partners initiated a project in two communities—Asunción del Quiquibey and Tres Hermanos—to install solar-powered refrigeration and freezing systems with a €39,000 grant from EKOenergy's Climate Fund.

The introduction of solar-powered cooling systems represents an advanced technological solution, utilising photovoltaic solar systems with a total capacity of 5.5 kWp and lithium batteries to ensure a reliable and affordable energy supply. These systems have directly benefited 60 local families. By enhancing food security and providing additional services, the project significantly benefits the entire community.

The cooling systems have enabled not only the storage of fish and meat but also the development of new livelihoods: they have facilitated the sale of products such as icecream, cold water, soft drinks, and jelly. Additionally, they have enabled the production of medicinal soaps and cosmetics using fruits and vegetables from the Amazon Forest.

Moreover, the project has led to improved market access and economic opportunities for these remote communities. By maintaining the quality of their products for longer periods, families can now transport and sell their goods at fair market prices, leading to increased household incomes and greater economic stability.

In addition to its other benefits, the project promoted gender equity by establishing women-led committees to ensure transparent and efficient governance, including oversight of a maintenance fund for the installed systems. This approach empowers women and supports the long-term social and economic development of the entire community.

Thank you to all sellers and users of EKOenergy-labelled energy for making this project possible.

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."

