

## Solar energy transforming healthcare in Cameroon's rainforests



**Project duration: 7 months**

Photo: CCREAD-Cameroon

In June 2024, EKOenergy granted €59,995 to the non-profit Centre for Community Regeneration and Development (CCREAD-Cameroon) for a solar electrification project aimed at improving healthcare services in Cameroon. This funding has powered health centres in underserved areas, benefiting over 41 communities and 12,560 individuals.

The project we funded focused on five health centres serving rainforest communities living around Bakossi National Park and Banyan-Mbo Wildlife Reserve. It elaborated on a project we funded in the same area in 2023.

Before the implementation of the project, the health centres lacked proper lighting and functional medical equipment. Some centres used unreliable generators or required patients to bring kerosene lamps or wood for illumination. Using kerosene and wood poses serious health risks and causes environmental harm. Women and children suffered the most from this situation because it's usually women who have to collect wood and buy kerosene, and, usually, it's them working indoors and inhaling the smoke.

In each of the five health centres, CCREAD-Cameroon installed solar systems in very close cooperation with the health centers' staff. The systems have a capacity between 3 and 5 kW and produce up to 15 kWh daily. They also include battery storage.

As a result the health centres now have lights and can power all kinds of electric devices, which significantly improved healthcare services for over 12,560 people across 41 rainforest communities.

The availability of electricity in health centers has other advantages also. For example, the elimination of noisy and polluting generators has improved the overall environment of the health centres, making them safer and more comfortable spaces for patients.

CCREAD-Cameroon involved local women in facility management committees and trained ten of them to oversee the solar systems and report on their functionality, empowering them with technical skills and decision-making responsibilities.

The introduction of solar power has made access to energy easier and cheaper. It also has enhanced safety, reduced health hazards, and freed up people's, particularly women's, time for other economic and social activities.

This project has significantly contributed to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing critical issues in health, energy access, gender equality, and climate action.

We thank the project partners for their dedication and careful preparation and implementation! Thanks also to all sellers and users of EKOenergy-labelled energy worldwide. Impactful projects like this wouldn't be possible without you.

### 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 2024, EKOenergy approved grants for 23 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."*

*"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."*

