

Solar-powered hope: Brightening lives and providing water in Malawi



Project duration: 4 months

Photo: RENAMA

In 2024, RENAMA, with support from EKOenergy, delivered life-changing solar energy solutions to Namachila in Thyolo District, Malawi. This initiative directly benefits over 2,200 students at the Namachila primary and nursery schools and positively impacts over 28,000 people in nearby communities.

RENAMA (Renew'N'Able Malawi) is a Malawian non-profit focusing on renewable energy and its potential to empower people in off-grid communities. Through awareness raising and training, they showcase how introducing renewable energy can improve access to clean water, support small businesses, and facilitate sustainable agriculture.

Energy access is limited in Thyolo district, Malawi. Most households depend on expensive and unsafe sources for lighting, like kerosene lamps, creating indoor air pollution and fire risks. The reliance on traditional energy sources deepens poverty and inequality as women and children usually spend hours collecting firewood instead of focusing on education or economic activities. Water scarcity is another big problem in Thyolo district, especially during the dry season. Because most families rely on unsafe water, waterborne illnesses such as dysentery and typhus are a persistent problem.

In mid-2024, EKOenergy granted €57,884 to RENAMA for a comprehensive clean energy and water project.

This grant enabled RENAMA to set up a 10 kW solar system, including a 10 kWh battery pack. The system provides power to the local schools and also powers an energy kiosk, making energy more easily accessible for thousands.

The solar-powered energy kiosk changes the local people's lives in many ways. It offers phone charging services, cold drinks, solar lamp sales. It also hosts a barber shop, and more services and products are in the pipeline. It creates new opportunities for local businesses and revenue generation to maintain the infrastructure.

Additionally, RENAMA and their local partners drilled a 60m deep high-yield borehole and installed a 2hp solar-powered water pump. Four 7,500-liter water storage tanks and a distribution network now ensure access to clean water for the students and the local residents, and also provide water to a newly built, 600 m² greenhouse.

RENAMA engaged the local community from the beginning of the project, working with local leaders and school committees to ensure long-term sustainability. The agreed payments are used to maintain and repair the energy and water infrastructure.

This project has significantly contributed to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing critical issues in health, energy and clean water access. We thank the project partners for the careful preparation and implementation! Thanks also to all sellers and users of EKOenergy-labelled energy. 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."

