A replicable model of affordable, clean energy in Palestine

In 2019, EKOenergy granted 40,000 euros to the Applied Research Institute of Jerusalem (ARIJ) to help showcase solar as a viable source of energy in Bethlehem, Palestine. This project also aims at raising awareness about solar energy use.

Photo: ARIJ

Currently, energy generation in Palestine is mainly based on imported fossil fuels, which makes energy very expensive. EKOenergy's grant helped ARIJ to set up five grid-connected PV systems for local families and raise awareness about the convenience of solar energy. This project is a follow-up of a previous project of ARIJ, also financed by EKOenergy's Climate Fund in 2017.

For the selection of the local families who will receive the installations, several aspects were taken into account such as the availability of a suitable place to install solar panels, the consumption pattern of the candidates and their capacity to pay the installations back over time. Before the selection, several information events were organised to explain the benefits and operational aspects of the PV systems and to give information about the pre-financing and the payback conditions. The objective is to set up a revolving fund and use the payments from the beneficiaries to develop new PV systems for other households.

The installed PV systems have a capacity of 20.2 kWp in total and these reduce the beneficiaries' electricity expenses by up to 40%. The ownership of these installations will be transferred to the households after the installation cost is covered completely. This model is expected to be replicated in other municipalities and target poor households as well.

As part of the project, information sessions were conducted and the results as well as the progress of the installations were shared on social media. In addition, the practical aspects of the project, such as the benefits and feasibility of solar power in Palestine, were communicated too.

ARIJ writes: *"Thanks to grants such as those from EKOenergy, we can reduce the burden of the loan that the poor families cannot afford, especially with the current imbalanced political and economic conditions leading to high levels of poverty and unemployment in Palestine. Projects like this one contribute effectively to solving part of these challenges. Grants, combined with the money collected from the previous beneficiaries over time, will allow us to help many more families."*

All consumers of EKOenergy-labelled energy, large and small, help us promote renewable energy worldwide through projects such as this one. You can support our efforts by switching to EKOenergy-labelled energy and by encouraging others to do the same.

Our Climate Fund

- A 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 2020, the Fund granted 230,000 € for 13 new projects
- All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Fund

EKOenergy ecolabel

WHY CHOOSE EKOENERGY-LABELLED RENEWABLES?

- A nature conservation initiative
- 100% renewable energy
- A non-profit ecolabel
- Electricity, gas, heat & cold
- Available worldwide
- A tool for communication

1 Climate & Nature

Meets ESG and CSR requirements and guarantees a minimal impact on the local environment.

2 Communication

The logo can be used in your online communications, marketing materials, products and facilities.

3 Leadership & Additionality

Highlighted as a good solution towards sustainability by CDP, LEED and GHG Protocol.

4 International recognition

A label with internationally recognised sustainability criteria, already available in 40+ countries.

EKOenergy's contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals exceeded 1 million € between 2015-2020. For each MWh of EKOenergy sold, 0.10€ (0.20€ for hydropower) is used to **fight energy poverty** and **protect biodiversity**.

EKOenergy is available in over 40 countries

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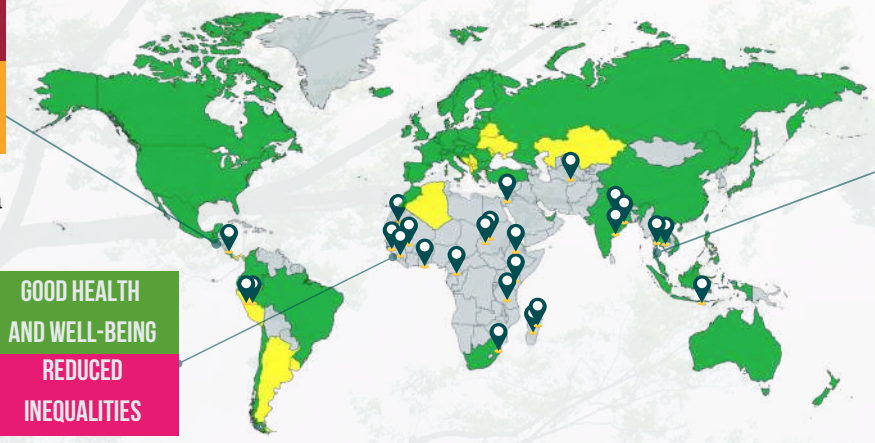

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Solar energy for coffee producers in Nicaragua

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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www.ekoenergy.org

info@ekoenergy.org