Solar energy for rural villages in Myanmar

Project duration: 2 years

In 2020, EKOenergy granted 22,000 euros to the Italian NGO Istituto Oikos to install solar-powered mini-grids in 2 remote and off-grid villages in Myanmar.

Istituto Oikos is an Italian NGO that focuses on nature protection, sustainable energy and community development. They have been active in various parts of Myanmar for many years.

With the grant provided by EKOenergy, Istituto Oikos has been able to work with the communities of Well Gyi and Well Ngae, which are located in the southern part of the Tanintharyi Region in South Myanmar, along the Kraburi River forming the border with Thailand. These communities are made up of about 55 households and are home to little over 200 people. They are communities that lack public services and are not connected to the national grid.

Our grant has allowed Oikos and their local partners to install solar-powered mini-grids. These mini-grids were able to provide relief to the local population amidst the Covid pandemic and political crisis (as this project was implemented not long after the military coup of 2021). In Well Gyi Village, a 10.8 kWp solar installation was built and split over 2 different distribution systems, each with its own set of batteries. In Well Ngle Village, a smaller installation of 3.1 kWp was set up, partially consisting of solar panels that had previously been used by a monastery.

Local families helped transport and install the materials and provided extra funding for the power distribution equipment that was not covered by the project.

Each household now has access to a jointly agreed amount of electricity from the system, allowing them to power lights, use an electric rice cooking pot and charge small electronic devices such as mobile phones.

An electric power committee, consisting of 5 residents from each of the 2 communities and chaired by a monk, will take care of the operation of the system. This includes monitoring the functioning of the equipment such as the batteries, inverter, solar panels and the wiring system, as well as taking care of any repair when needed. This committee is also in charge of collecting a monthly electricity fee from each household and doing the bookkeeping to present to the other members of the municipality.

We thank all users and sellers of EKOenergy-labelled renewable energy for making it possible for us to finance similar projects that provide clean, reliable electricity to communities in need.

Text: Liana Symonenko
Photo: Istituto Oikos
EKOenergy is the international ecolabel for energy (electricity, gas, heat and cold). We are a non-profit organisation working to fight climate change, protect biodiversity and realise the Sustainable Development Goals.

Energy sold with the EKOenergy ecolabel fulfils strict 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-labelled energy is sold by licensed energy companies and is available in over 50 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, Tetra Pak, VMware, Workday and Genelec as well as cities, public organisations and individual households.

## Sustainability criteria: additional value for our planet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EKOenergy</th>
<th>Other renewable energy</th>
<th>Grid mix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recommended by environmental organisations</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable energy tracked by EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs (In line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributes to renewable energy projects in developing countries, advancing the realisation of multiple Sustainable development goals</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available and recognised worldwide</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supports the promotion of a transition to renewable energy worldwide</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
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## Endorsed by other 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.”