

Solar-Powered Cooling Systems for Rural Communities in Liberia



Project duration: 9 months

Photo: Concern Worldwide

In June 2023, EKOenergy granted €35,400 to Concern Worldwide, an international humanitarian agency, for its community initiative in Liberia. This funding transformed communities by installing solar-powered fridges in market towns in Grand Bassa and Rivercess counties.

Liberia faces significant power connectivity challenges that limit smallholder farmers' ability to store their produce, also affecting local food security. Solar-powered cold storage systems are a cost-effective and sustainable solution for preserving perishable food and reducing harvest losses. However, high initial costs often prevent local communities from accessing these systems. To address this, Concern Worldwide and its local partner, the Liberia Agency for Community Development, installed fridges in four storage and processing houses, each powered by 5-10 kW solar systems.

To maximise impact, these fridges and systems were installed in storage houses built during previous Concern's projects, which already had functional management committees or entrepreneurs. With the help of technicians and supervisors, they developed a strategy to install the systems and address each facility's specific needs for greater efficiency.

After installation, all management committees and entrepreneurs received training in business skills and financial management. Concern also organised community engagement sessions and site visits to share information.

The project supported the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, such as SDG 1: No Poverty; SDG 2: Zero Hunger; and SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. The installed solar systems now power fridges that reduce food spoilage and post-harvest losses, thereby increasing farmers' income and improving the food security. Additionally, these cooling systems have enabled the resale of other products, such as ice and beverages.

Excess energy from the solar systems facilitates phone and power bank charging, computer use, and the production of locally made juice, further generating and diversifying income sources for the entities responsible for the systems.

Overall, this project directly benefited 121 households with access to the newly installed fridges and positively impacted about 14,500 people in the communities through improved services, available products, and enhanced food security.

Thank you to all sellers and users of EKOenergy-labelled energy for making this project possible. Together, we contribute to a more sustainable and fair future.

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."

