

## Solar energy to improve health care in northeast Syria



**Project duration: 1 year**

Photo: Un Ponte Per

In 2023, EKOenergy granted €40,000 to the Italian NGO Un Ponte Per and the Kurdish Red Crescent to install solar panels in 18 healthcare facilities to ensure proper storage of vaccines and medicines in northeast Syria.

Years of conflict, an ongoing economic crisis, and a recent water crisis have led to a prolonged humanitarian emergency in northeast Syria, with 2 million people in need of assistance. Among the most critical needs reported by the population is access to healthcare.

In this region, public infrastructure is still under development. Healthcare facilities, in particular, have limited access to electricity and frequently experience power interruptions, which jeopardize the quality of care. These power shortages are especially problematic for the operation of refrigerators in health facilities, which are essential for preserving medicines that require constant low temperatures. The use of diesel generators during power outages creates numerous issues for local communities, including environmental degradation and higher operating costs.

To address these issues, Un Ponte Per, an organization dedicated to peace and human rights, and the Kurdish Red Crescent, which provides healthcare in the region, implemented a solar energy project with financial support from EKOenergy and its Climate Fund. The project improved electricity availability in 18 KRC healthcare facilities in northeast Syria, ensuring the proper conservation of medicines

and reducing reliance on diesel generators.

These solar installations mark a significant advancement in ensuring that local populations have reliable access to medicines and vaccines. All the sites are now powered by solar panels with capacities ranging from 300W to 5kW. The systems also include VRLA batteries and all other necessary accessories for their proper operation, including during nighttime hours. Over 539,000 people stand to benefit from these improvements.

In addition to ensuring the reliable operation of refrigerators essential for preserving vaccines and medicines, the use of solar energy in these facilities significantly reduces air pollution, thereby improving the living conditions of the local population and also the working environment for medical staff.

Within the health facilities, technical assistance teams from both organizations are monitoring the performance of the solar energy systems to ensure a continuous power supply for the refrigerators. Additionally, staff at these facilities have been trained to maintain the installations.

Thank you to all EKOenergy sellers and users who make such life-changing projects possible.

### 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."*

