

## Solar-powered clinics for refugees and rural communities in Myanmar



**Project duration: 1 year**

In 2022, EKOenergy granted Green Empowerment 30 000 € to provide solar energy to 8 different health clinics that aid Karen people and other ethnic minorities.

Photo: Border Green Energy Team

Since February 2021, military oppression and human rights violations against ethnic minorities, such as the Karen people, have displaced over 100,000 refugees in eastern Myanmar. Many of these communities are staying in refugee camps where they are vulnerable to extreme poverty, the spread of diseases and other healthcare risks.

Green Empowerment (GE) is a US-based non-profit organization that works with local partners around the world to strengthen communities by delivering affordable renewable energy, safe water, complementary health and economic projects. Their local partner in Myanmar is Border Green Energy Team and together they teamed up with The Karen Department of Health and Welfare to bring solar power to healthcare facilities in areas housing many refugees. Several of these facilities are located in remote places that are difficult to access and rely on diesel generators for their energy supply.

With EKOenergy's grant of 30,000 €, solar energy systems were installed in eight clinics in Karen State. The solar energy installations enable clinics in Karen state to better serve rural and indigenous communities. With

reliable electricity, these clinics are now able to use more equipment, operate longer hours, and safely store medicines and vaccines.

All eight clinics are equipped with 690W solar energy systems designed to power medical equipment, lighting and other appliances. Additionally three clinics have dedicated 1,380W systems to support refrigerator-freezers for cold vaccination programs and safe storage of vaccines and medicines. The total installed capacity for the eight clinics is 9.66 kW.

To install, operate and maintain the solar energy systems, Border Green Energy Team trained medical staff from the clinics on the theoretical foundations of renewable energy, how solar panels work, basic electricity, system components, system sizing, energy management and maintenance.

Together these 8 clinics serve 34 000 people staying in Karen villages and refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border.

We thank EKOenergy users and sellers for joining forces and contributing to making projects such as this one possible.

### Our Climate Fund



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 2022, the Fund granted 425,728 € for 15 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 65 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, VMware, Tetra Pak, 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."*



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