

Clean and reliable energy at schools



Project duration: 2 years

EKOenergy has funded the installation of solar panels at schools in Tanzania. Reliable and sustainable energy sources at schools can improve the quality and accessibility of education.

In the Arusha Region in Northern Tanzania, many schools have no access to electricity. Classes and dormitories have no illumination and students use kerosene lamps which are harmful for their health and dangerous due to fire risk.

In 2011, the Italian organisation Istituto Oikos received EU funding to install a small hydro turbine near the Ngarenanyuki secondary school in Meru District, Northern Tanzania. The turbine runs in an irrigation channel and provides the school with basic access to electricity. However, the water flow (and energy production) fluctuates throughout the year, so the school often cannot access power during the dry season.

In order to overcome this problem, EKOenergy paid 10,000 € in 2015 to add 3 kW of solar panels to the school's energy system. This complemented the hydro turbine. A smart inverter, built by students of the Polytechnic University of Milan, selects the source of energy based on availability at any moment.

Solar energy creates opportunities to electrify schools without having to rely on diesel generators. Though cheap to buy in comparison to solar panels, diesel generators are unreliable, polluting and require fuel, which is a constant drain on capital. Often they can be used only a few hours a day. Solar panels, on the other hand, are a much cheaper option over the long term because they are reliable and have next to zero running costs.

For this reason, Oikos started an ambitious follow-up project aiming to install solar panels in 20 secondary schools in the Arusha Region. In 2016, EKOenergy paid 30,000 € to this new project, allowing Oikos to install solar panels on 5 schools.

Because of Oikos' renewable energy project, 15,000 students in the region can now rely on sufficient light and they have now electricity for small electric devices too. Thanks a lot to all users of EKOenergy-labelled energy worldwide! Projects as these wouldn't be possible without you.

Text: Istituto Oikos & Nicolò Sancassiani
Picture: Istituto Oikos

Climate Fund Projects



Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals



New projects annually in developing countries



Run and monitored by trusted NGOs



Selected by an independent jury



In 2017, the Fund granted 190,000 € to nine new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 €/MWh to the Climate Fund

EKOenergy - the international ecolabel for renewable energy

EKOenergy is [the international ecolabel](#) for energy. 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 40 countries worldwide](#). Many of the 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

	EKOenergy	Other renewable	Grid mix
New renewable energy production via our Climate Fund	✓	?	-
Only the most climate-friendly bioenergy	✓	?	-
Wind power outside bird and nature areas	✓	?	-
Hydropower takes into account migratory fish. River restoration projects via our Environmental Fund .	✓	?	-
Renewable energy tracked by EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs. (in line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)	✓	✓	-
Wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, bioenergy	✓	✓	?
Fossil fuels, nuclear, possibly renewables	-	-	✓

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."

