

Solar powered smart village in Sudan



In 2017, EKOenergy donated 45,000 euro to the British NGO Practical Action. With that money, they started an ambitious renewable energy project in Barbusat, Sudan, in cooperation with local organisations.

Text: María Barreiro
Picture: Practical Action

Barbusat is a large village in North Darfur, Sudan. In Sudan, more than 70% of people live in rural areas, where access to sustainable energy is remarkably low.

The lack of electricity has a deep impact on the quality of life for people, who burn kerosene and firewood to provide light and heating. This causes dangerous emissions and indoor pollution, with serious impacts on health. The WHO estimates that 4 million people die as a result of indoor smoke every year worldwide. Barbusat has also been negatively affected by the Darfur conflict, as well as economic difficulties resulting from climate change and population growth.

The project includes a variety of actions. 100 households will receive solar lanterns and the beneficiaries will pay small contributions to a community based revolving fund, to finance the purchase of more solar lanterns for more families. Additionally, 50 businesses owned by women will receive solar lanterns. This will create a safer working environment after dark. A solar-powered grain mill will replace the unreliable diesel system which often

fails and used to make women queue for many hours a day.

The inception phase of the project involved the community in identifying the main challenges they are facing. Capacity building actions were organised to ensure the sustainability of the project beyond its lifetime. One of the key elements was training for women.

The project aims to ensure that the community has access to safe, affordable and sustainable energy. The community will have better air quality and consequently improved overall health.

With the implementation of the first stage well on schedule, the local partners have started preparing the next stage, to scale up the efforts. Local schools and a clinic will get access to clean energy too. Schools will receive ventilation fans, improving the conditions in which pupils learn. In total around 1 200 households will benefit from these actions. The project partners are now looking for extra funding for these actions.

Climate Fund Projects



Focus on Sustainable Development Goals (2, 5, 7 & 13)



New projects annually in developing countries



Run and monitored by trusted NGOs



Selected by an independent jury



In 2017, the Fund donated 190,000 € for nine new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Fund

The international ecolabel for electricity

The non-profit [EKOenergy-label](#) helps consumers from companies to families and public organizations choose an environmentally friendly electricity contract. It not only excludes fossil fuels and nuclear power, but demands strict sustainability criteria for the renewable production.

EKOenergy is [the international ecolabel for electricity](#) and is supported by a growing network of over 40 environmental organizations from over 30 countries. In 2016 the label received national awards in France, Switzerland and Germany for its work on climate change mitigation.



Sustainability criteria: additional value for our planet

	EKOenergy	Other renewable	Mixed sources
New renewable energy production via Climate Fund	✓	?	-
Only most climate friendly bioenergy	✓	?	-
Wind-power outside bird and nature areas	✓	?	-
Hydropower takes into account migratory fish. River restoration projects via Environmental Fund .	✓	?	-
Renewable energy tracked by GOs, RECS, I-RECS	✓	✓	-
Wind, solar, hydro, bio	✓	✓	?
Fossil fuels, nuclear, possibly renewables	-	-	✓

Endorsed by other standards

EKOenergy is mentioned by the most well-known international environmental standards, such as CDP, Greenhouse Gas Protocol, Greenkey for hotels and LEED-certification for buildings.

"EKOenergy represents the [best available option](#) for the sustainable and additional consumption of renewable electricity within Europe."



"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."



"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](#)."



EKOenergy

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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](#)."

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