

Energy cafe in Tajikistan



Remote rural areas suffer the most from the lack of electricity supply. The energy cafe in Nisur, Tajikistan, aims to provide clean energy for the local community.

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Pictures: Little Earth

In 2017 €15,000 were allocated to the energy cafe project. Nisur village is situated 2650 m above the sea level and consists of 42 households. It takes at least two days to travel from the capital, Dushanbe, to Nisur. In December 2015, this area experienced a severe earthquake, leaving the villagers even more isolated. Therefore, the availability of an autonomous and reliable source of energy is crucial for the local community.

To improve the energy situation, two local NGOs, *Little Earth* and *Oyandasoz* launched a project to promote solar energy. They received technical support from Naturvernforbundet (The Norwegian Society for the Conservation of Nature) and financial support through EKOenergy's Climate Fund.

The project includes the installation of a solar-powered internet cafe. The cafe was opened in October 2017 and is equipped with 1 kW solar photovoltaic system and 2 laptops with Internet access. In the cafe, the villagers can use laptops and photocopy machines, as well as charge mobile devices. The

cafe operates on a commercial basis to ensure further financial sustainability of the project.

The second stage includes easy access to solar lighting. The energy cafe will become a distribution point of solar lanterns. The cafe has started with 50 lanterns, which villagers can now buy and pay by instalment. The income will be used to renew the stock of lanterns and to start experimenting with other solar powered devices.

"Since the energy cafe was opened in the village, many young people started spending more of their spare time in the cafe. They got the chance to learn the basics of computer literacy and gain more familiarity with opportunities afforded by the Internet. Some of them even queue up to get into the cafe" - says the local school headmaster, Juma Jumaev. The project not only introduces new energy technologies but it also helps create favourable conditions for socio-economic development by giving people the opportunity to receive information and develop themselves.

Climate Fund Projects



Focus on renewables and energy poverty (Global Goals 7 & 13)



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Selected by an independent jury



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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	-	-	✓

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