

Lighting up the homes of Nyaung Chuang village, Myanmar



Project duration: 1 year

EKOenergy gave 15,000 € to the Italian NGO Istituto Oikos to install a solar electric grid in the remote village of Nyaung Chuang, Myanmar. The project ensured access to a clean source of energy for the 25 families of the village.

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Pictures: Istituto Oikos

Nyaung Chuang is a small village located in a remote area of Rakhine State, on the western coast of Myanmar. The village community is composed of 25 families (a total of 97 people) whose main source of income comes from agricultural activities. The village is not connected to the national electricity grid and prior to the project, the main source of lighting homes was to use candles or kerosene.

In 2018, EKOenergy's Climate Fund paid 15,000 € to the Italian NGO Istituto Oikos, active in the area since 2008, to install a solar mini electric grid in Nyaung Chuang. Istituto Oikos implemented the project in partnership with the Rakhine Coastal Conservation Association, actively involving the local community throughout all phases of the project.

After a careful pre-assessment, the project began with the transport of necessary materials to the village, which is only reachable by boat. A structure to hold the solar panels was built in a central location in the village, along with a series of wooden poles needed to connect all houses to the microgrid. The system provides 4 hours of electricity a day for the whole village. The

local school has the right to consume a higher amount of energy in order to allow students to study after sunset. Project developers also installed two electric bulbs and a socket in each house and two street lights with automatic on/off switches.

Around 30 villagers were trained on how to manage and maintain the system. Finally, after official testing demonstrated that the system was functioning correctly, it was handed over to the community. As the project led to positive results, Istituto Oikos and their partners have the ambition to replicate it in other off-grid villages in the area.

The villagers said that previously they usually had to come home before darkness to manage cooking and other chores. Since the implementation of the project, they are now able to spend more time in the fields carrying out productive activities. "In the West we take for granted many things that here are only a luxury, like electric lighting at home" said Lorenzo Gaffi, project manager of Istituto Oikos in Myanmar. "Projects like this are very effective because a relatively small contribution can provide a big change and considerably improve living conditions of local communities".

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Sustainability criteria: additional value for our planet

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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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