

# SolergieBox for rural villages in Togo



Following on from previous projects in 2016 and 2017, we have continued to support the amazing work of Belgian organization Solar Without Borders (Solar zonder Grenzen) and their Togolese partner Solergie in granting them 6000€ in 2018 and a further 4000€ in 2019.

Text: Thomas Hall

Picture: Solar without Borders

Initial projects from 2015-2016 saw the installation of the first smart solar kiosks in the poorest rural areas of Togo. Solar kiosks are constructions equipped with solar panels used to recharge locals' lamps and other devices using solar power.

Since then, Solergie have been continuously developing, trying different technologies to improve the kiosks. The new design has seen the introduction of smart solar powered units located in households and businesses living in off-grid locations. The units are called the "Solergie Box" and one box can be connected to 6 households. Households can monitor their energy usage and pay for their energy online or using their phone. The amount they pay depends on how much energy they use and a portion of the payment contributes to buying the box, so eventually they will become owners.

Thanks to our financing in 2018 and 2019 they have been able to install 5 of these, directly benefiting 40 families. By mid-2019, several hundred units in Togo had been sold.

We continued to help fund this project as Solergie primarily targets those in the most disadvantaged regions, helping develop them in a sustainable and economical way. Partially thanks to our initial support enabling its roll-out, this project has become a growing scheme and benefits through its ease of replicability. The project also enables people to climb out of poverty through becoming co-owners of solar boxes, empowering them whilst also giving them vital skills in entrepreneurship and networking.

One example of this is local resident Amidou who, starting up his own cinema business in his village, has capitalised on the newly available electricity. Thanks to SolergieBox he was able to purchase and power a fridge and large TV, enough to set him up as a successful business owner. When asked his opinion on the introduction of the SolergieBox in his village, his humbling response... "For me, you are God!"

You can see our previous report on the 2016 & 2017 Solergie projects together with the other climate leaflets on our website.

## 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 2019, the Fund granted 245,000 € for nine new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the 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 <a href="#">Climate Fund</a>	✓	?	-
Only the most climate-friendly bioenergy	✓	?	-
Wind power outside bird and nature areas	✓	?	-
Hydropower takes into account migratory fish. River restoration projects via our <a href="#">Environmental Fund</a> .	✓	?	-
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."*



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