

Solar-powered pumps to provide water to hill-top communities



Project duration: 3 years

In July 2020, EKOenergy granted 22,000 euros to the UK charity Renewable World and their Nepalese partners to alleviate water scarcity and increase access to water with the help of solar-powered water pumps in the Achham District of Nepal.

Text: Margarita Churaeva

Photo: Renewable World

Water scarcity is among the biggest issues in the Nepalese Achham district. Because of poor access to water, agriculture in the district is dwindling, which results in food insecurity and increased poverty. Water scarcity also makes the population rely on unclean water sources. This, in turn, increases the risk of widespread diseases in the district.

Renewable World's UREKA project, which started in October of 2020, tackles issues related to water access and availability in the Achham district. With the financial help of EKOenergy, Renewable World and their local partners implemented Solar Water Pumping with Multiple Use Distribution Systems (SolarMUS) in four of Achham's poorest communities: the villages of Timilsaina, Sallena, Totkesaal and Jayakot.

The technology uses solar energy to lift water to hilltop communities. Water is pumped from a perennial spring or stream and gets distributed using gravity to tap stands outside each house, providing water for both domestic use and agriculture. The distribution systems prioritize drinking water, and the overflow from the drinking water tank is used for washing, livestock and agriculture.

The SolarMUS is community-owned and is expected to meet the communities' water needs for the next 20 years. During the project, Renewable World gave training to local inhabitants so that they can maintain the SolarMUS by themselves. The Project Team also visited a solar powered cold storage facility in order to analyze the possibility of providing one cooperative with the necessary capital and training to establish one functioning cold storage unit.

This project offers a way to mitigate future climate change and, simultaneously, to increase the communities' adaptive capacity by improving their access to clean water. It particularly helps families adjust to unpredictable water shortages, decreases their need to walk far from their homes to get water, improves food security, decreases the risk of disease and helps to generate an income from agriculture. This, in turn, helps to alleviate poverty in these communities.

Installations like these are made possible thanks to the users of EKOenergy-labelled energy worldwide. With your continued use of our ecolabel, we'll keep on supporting similar projects to ensure tangible results.

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 2020, the Fund granted 230,000 € for 13 new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Fund

EKOenergy - the global ecolabel for renewable energy

EKOenergy is [the international ecolabel](#) for energy (electricity, gas, heat and cold). 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 50 countries worldwide](#). Many 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 energy	Grid mix
Recommended by environmental organisations	✓	?	-
Extra criteria to minimise the impact of energy production on nature. For example, hydropower installations with fish passes and wind turbines outside important bird areas	✓	?	-
Renewable energy tracked by EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs (In line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)	✓	✓	-
Contributes to renewable energy projects in developing countries, advancing the realisation of multiple Sustainable development goals	✓	-	-
Available and recognised worldwide	✓	-	-
Supports the promotion of a transition to renewable energy worldwide	✓	-	-

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."

