

Solar-powered sewing machines to support women in Cameroon



In 2021, EKOenergy granted 27,000 euros to Association Jeunesse Verte du Cameroun (AJVC) for their project to equip women, mainly from the Yaoundé region of Cameroon, with solar-powered sewing machines.

Text: Quentin Le Thiec
Photo: AJVC

Women are substantially affected by the lack of electricity access, which also hampers their economical empowerment and entrepreneurship. To tackle this barrier, Cameroonian NGO Association Jeunesse Verte du Cameroun (AJVC) and MPower as a technical partner joined forces with the local communities and authorities.

With EKOenergy's support, AJVC and partners were able to provide 40 solar-powered sewing machines for 40 seamstresses, to offer them additional income generating opportunities. Their aim is to support women's entrepreneurship and independence, as well as increasing environmental awareness through the use of solar energy.

Each of the women received a solar-powered sewing kit, allowing them more productivity with their businesses and accelerating the use of renewable energy in the professional lives of the community. Each kit is made-up of one solar panel, one battery, one solar-powered sewing machine and three light bulbs.

In addition to solar-powered sewing, the 40 seamstresses will also be able to use the battery to charge their phones, and thus have the

opportunity to grow their businesses further.

This project links solar-powered sewing machines to supporting women and environmental protection at the same time. Ideas to increase its efficiency and usefulness will be discussed with the beneficiaries to build on their interest and highlight the project.

Marie Tamoifo Nkom, President of AJVC, explained that this project in Cameroon is linked to a much larger, global issue: *"One of the biggest challenges identified for women is the lack of energy and access to innovative technologies. [...] With this project, they will have an opportunity to utilise their skills and strengthen their finances, which will be useful not only for them, but also for their families and for society."*

The Women's Day theme in 2022 is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". With this project, we help local organisations move from plans to action to empower women through renewable energy in urban and peri-urban areas. Similar projects to fight energy poverty and accelerate the energy transition are made possible every year thanks to those who choose EKOenergy-labelled renewables.

Our Climate Fund



Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals



New projects annually in developing countries



Projects run and monitored by trusted NGOs



Selected by an independent jury



In 2021, the Fund granted 254,178 € for 13 new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Climate 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."



info@ekoenergy.org | www.ekoenergy.org