



SELECTION PROCESS DESCRIPTION:

EKOENERGY'S CLIMATE FUND / SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

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BACKGROUND: All EKOenergy consumers contribute ten euro cents (€0.10) per megawatt-hour to EKOenergy's Climate Fund. This fund supports new renewable energy projects in low- and middle-income countries. These projects are coordinated by experienced organisations and aim to improve the living conditions of priority communities, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and address the climate crisis. The total funding provided varies annually based on the sales of EKOenergy-labelled energy.

Our selection process is designed to be transparent and guarantees a positive and sustainable impact. The EKOenergy Secretariat oversees the process, involving several experts, voluntary sellers, and consumers of EKOenergy-labelled energy. This collaborative approach not only ensures transparency but also effective risk management.

The selection process of EKOenergy Climate Fund's open calls is outlined in this document, which emphasises short-term projects typically lasting up to 12 months.

REVIEW PROCESS: EKOenergy has a thorough review process for selecting short-term projects. The process involves evaluating both the applicant organisation and proposed project activities against our eligibility and selection criteria. The review process includes the following steps:

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PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

(Eligibility Assessment,
Online Screening)



IN-DEPTH EVALUATION

(Project Evaluation, Reference
Checks, Interviews)



FINAL RANKING



INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP'S REVIEW



FINAL REVIEW, SELECTION AND APPROVAL is completed by EKOenergy's Steering Group, the Board of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation and EKOenergy's International Board.

Our previous grantees may be exempt from certain review rounds based on their previous engagement and performance.

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INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP OF EXPERTS:

EKOenergy's International Advisory Group of Experts is a voluntary and diverse group dedicated to enhancing EKOenergy's selection processes through specialised expertise.

If you are interested in joining the group, you can contact EKOenergy's Secretariat at any time of the year.

Participation in the group is open to:

- Sellers and corporate consumers of EKOenergy.
- Experts and trustees of the Finnish Association for Nature Conservation.
- Experts and trustees of EKOenergy's International Network Organisations.
- Experts and trustees of EKOenergy's International Board Organisations.
- Individuals with relevant higher education degree and preferably minimum of three years experience in renewable energy and/or other relevant sectors such as agriculture, education and healthcare.

While the review by the International advisory group is crucial in EKOenergy's funding selection, it forms just one component of the process and does not solely determine which projects EKOenergy's Secretariat will present to its decision-making levels for a final decision.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA: The following selection criteria for EKOenergy's Climate Fund projects ensure that short-term projects selected through open calls align with EKOenergy's mission and have a positive, sustainable impact:

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- **Non-Profit Status:** We primarily invite applications from NGOs but also consider applications from other entities with a non-profit status, provided they are dedicated to environmental and social impact, and fulfil other criteria.
- **Organisational Capacity:** The main applicant organisations should show they have the required capability and a history of successfully completing similar-scale projects. We prioritise organisations with a proven track record of success, as indicated by references.
- **Alignment with Strategic Goals:** Proposed projects should align with the goals of the applicant organisation.
- **Community Engagement:** The main applicant must have an established relationship and a deep understanding of the community the project aims to benefit. Prior engagement in project planning of the local community is a mandatory requirement to ensure the prioritisation of community needs.
- **Inclusive Projects in Low- and Middle-Income Countries:** Projects must benefit priority populations in low- or middle-income countries defined by the World Bank. Participant selection must be based on a genuine needs assessment, strictly prohibiting discrimination to ensure a fair and inclusive approach.
- **Climate Benefits:** Projects must exhibit clear climate benefits.
- **Environmental Responsibility and Inclusive Site Planning:** Project activities, installations, or other infrastructure should not harm the local environment and must not take place or be built on sensitive land (land with unclear tenure rights or identified as culturally sensitive or ecologically significant by community stakeholders). We do not fund projects that necessitate physical resettlement of people or assets.
- **Upholding Human Rights Principles:** All funded projects must be bound by human rights principles, ensuring ethical implementation. For example, the projects are prohibited from involving work contributions from minors and must ensure adequate compensation for work.
- **Funding Allocation:** Most of the funding should go to the construction of new renewable electricity installations.



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In addition to meeting this eligibility criteria, project proposals must provide and include:

- **A Summary of a Comprehensive Project Plan** that includes a rough budget, a communication plan and a clear exit strategy to ensure its ongoing benefits.
- **Stakeholder Engagement** for meaningful collaborations and best possible project outcomes.
- **Renewable Energy Advocacy** through promoting renewable energy to a broader audience, including local, regional, or national authorities or other relevant stakeholders.
- **Holistic Project Approach and Activities** to benefit communities in multiple ways, such as improving education and healthcare access, enhancing food security and livelihoods, or advocating for economic justice for women. Projects only focused on providing electricity alone with no other activities do not follow our strategic goals.

In addition to these criteria, the selection process may consider other specified criteria mentioned in the call. The final selection will be based on the ranking of the projects and the total available funding.

Funding exclusion: we do not offer funding for

- General, unrestricted co-funding of larger projects where the exact purpose of our grant is not clearly defined.
- Research projects with a focus on research activities.
- Events, workshops, networking, and campaigns that are not part of a project.
- Individuals.

If you have any other questions related to our selection processes or criteria, please contact us at info@ekoenergy.org