

River restoration in Lower Saxony, Germany



Project Duration: 1 year

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 Photo: Ökologische Station
 Landgraben-Dumme-Niederung

EKOenergy provided a financing of 21,984.94 € for the revitalisation and restoration of the Schnegaer Mühlenbach, a small stream in eastern Lower Saxony, Germany. The project was implemented by Ökologische Station Landgraben-Dumme-Niederung.

The Schnegaer Mühlenbach is a habitat to rare species such as brook mussels, otters, brook lamprey, brook trout and stream dragonflies. Throughout the decades the naturally fast-flowing stream with meanders and gravel sections was straightened and deepened. For example, in the 1970s, the entire gravel in the stream section near the Brüchauer Mill was removed, resulting in a slow and sluggish stream flow. This had a huge negative impact on the stream's diversity.

During this restoration project, 516 tons of gravel as well as 20 tons of boulders were used in order to reconnect an old meander to the 700 m long main stream. Different amounts of gravel with a grain size of 8 to 4 mm were placed at 17 selected stream sections. The gravel was transported to a central collection point by a truck, from which local farmers then transported it to the selected stream banks.

By installing gravel banks, the stream bed was raised by approx. 40 to 50 cm to increase the flow velocity. The riverbed was narrowed by placing large stones and deadwood, which supports this process.

These measures have specifically created a mix of fast flow and calmer zones to provide good spawning conditions for fish. Additionally, in the long-term, these measures should lead to an improvement in water quality and to a rise in the groundwater level.

The local nature conservation authorities required a brook mussels-monitoring to ensure that no potential mussel locations were covered by gravel during the restoration process. Unfortunately, only three living brook mussels were found in a different part of the stream below the Brüchauer Mill.

A recent monitoring of the fish and brook lamprey population in the Schnegaer Mühlenbach shows that the results of the projects are promising. The good results have also been recognised by owners and users of the adjacent grassland areas and by the local fishing association.

Thanks a lot to all consumers of EKOenergy-labelled hydropower. Projects as these wouldn't be possible without your choice of EKOenergy.

ENVIRONMENTAL FUND



EKOenergy funds river restoration projects annually



Projects implemented by trustworthy local organisations



Projects selected by independent jury of experts



Between 2015 and 2020 we collected 435000 € for river restoration projects



Funding comes from sales of EKOenergy-labelled hydropower

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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."

