PRESS RELEASE
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EKOenergy ecolabel's Climate Fund Hits €10 Million for Renewable Energy in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Eight new projects funded in April 2026 bring EKOenergy's total support for renewable energy projects in low- and middle-income countries to €10 million since 2013

Helsinki, Finland. EKOenergy ecolabel has reached a milestone of €10 million in funding for renewable energy projects in low- and middle-income countries through its Climate Fund. In April 2026, eight new initiatives across Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific finalized the granting process, bringing the total support provided since 2013 to the landmark figure. The projects use renewable energy to improve healthcare, food security, livelihoods and environmental protection in remote and underserved communities.

What is the Climate Fund?

EKOenergy's Climate Fund is financed through voluntary contributions from companies and consumers purchasing renewable electricity labelled with EKOenergy. Energy suppliers and buyers contribute a small additional amount for every megawatt-hour of electricity sold with the label. These funds are then directed to carefully selected projects that deploy renewable energy solutions in communities with limited access to reliable power.

> "EKOenergy not only wants to make it easier for companies to switch to renewable energy worldwide, but we also offer tools for making an additional positive impact. Many companies say they want to boost climate action and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, but unfortunately, they struggle to find out where or how to start." *Steven Vanholme, Programme Manager at EKOenergy*

Since its creation, the Climate Fund has supported projects that combine clean energy access with social and environmental benefits, contributing to several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals such as affordable clean energy, good health and wellbeing, and climate action.

Concrete impact on the ground

The eight new projects illustrate how renewable energy can transform communities.

In Cameroon, solar systems will electrify two rural health centres serving around 15,000 people, enabling safe childbirth at night and reliable vaccine storage. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, solar panels and battery storage will power a maternity and child-care unit that serves 46,500 women and girls, improving medical care and sterilisation of equipment.

In Uganda, three health clinics serving more than 111,000 people each year, including refugees, will transition from expensive diesel generators to solar power. Meanwhile in Zimbabwe, solar-powered boreholes and irrigation systems will provide clean water and improve food security for around 2,400 households.

Several projects focus on sustainable livelihoods and environmental protection. In Papua New Guinea, solar irrigation will help farmers adopt permaculture practices while protecting 3,500 hectares of rainforest from deforestation. In Bolivia, solar-powered irrigation and drying systems will support indigenous agroforestry production of cocoa and vanilla.

Other initiatives empower communities directly. In the Peruvian Amazon, solar electricity and internet access will strengthen the Chapra Nation's ability to monitor and protect its rainforest territory, while in The Gambia, solar power will support women farmers through cold storage, improved healthcare services and new income opportunities.

Together, these projects show how renewable energy funded through EKOenergy not only reduces emissions but also delivers tangible benefits for communities around the world.

What is EKOenergy?

EKOenergy is an international not-for-profit ecolabel for energy (renewable electricity as well as renewable gas, heat and cold). In addition to being renewable, EKOenergy-labelled energy fulfils additional sustainability criteria and finances projects that combat energy poverty.

The EKOenergy ecolabel can be combined with any sourcing method: Green tariffs, Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs), unbundled energy certificates such as Guarantees of Origin, RECs, I-RECs and others. Energy from on-site installations can also carry the EKOenergy label. EKOenergy brings additional positive impact to consumers' renewable energy choice, regardless of the method of purchase or consumption.

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol, LEED for green buildings, CDP and the RE100 describe the EKOenergy ecolabel as a good solution for consumers who want to take an extra step.

Contact Information

Paulo López Muñoz
Outreach & Communications Assistant
paulo.lopez@ekoenergy.org
+34 638 76 77 04