

Solar panels to facilitate medical work in rural Guinea



As part of a project to bring doctors to the rural region of Labé in Guinea, EKOenergy's Climate Fund paid 15,618 € to the French NGO Santé Sud to put solar panels on the roofs of five medical offices.

Text: Mounia Tonazzini
Picture: Santé Sud

Santé Sud has been working for more than 20 years to bring young doctors to rural areas with low levels of access to medicine. To do this, they provide initial training for doctors on the specifics of practicing medicine in these areas.

They support the doctors in carrying out feasibility studies, and help them to negotiate with communities in order to obtain buildings for their medical offices. The tariffs for medical treatments are also agreed between the community and the doctor, in order to be accessible to the whole population. Moreover, the association provides equipment, medical kits and drug stocks.

The installation of solar panels is an integral part of the project, as explained by François Calas, Program Manager for Santé Sud: "It is important for doctors to have access to electricity for several reasons: it allows night work, medical emergencies and childbirth. Doctors are able to recharge their mobile phones, which are needed to contact the local hospital and to be contacted

by patients. It allows the installation of fridges to preserve drugs and vaccines, and doctors can use medical software on their computers to monitor patients. Additionally, there are indirect benefits, such as increasing the appeal of these rural areas for doctors."

In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of the project, Santé Sud promotes the networking of doctors in partnership with the local association FMG (Fraternité Médicale Guinée).

Doctors provide quality care to communities and participate in public service missions (vaccination campaigns, epidemiological surveillance, etc.). The five medical offices cover a population of 50 to 60 thousand people.

For each MWh of EKOenergy-labelled energy they sell, energy suppliers pay 0,10 € to EKOenergy's Climate Fund, which is used to finance projects that promote access to energy and reduce social inequalities. With your support, we help build a fairer world.

Climate Fund Projects



Focus on renewables and energy poverty (Global Goals 3, 7 & 10)



New projects annually in developing countries



Run and monitored by trusted NGOs



Selected by an independent jury



In 2017, the Fund granted 190,000 € for nine new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 € / MWh to the Fund

EKOenergy - the international ecolabel for renewable energy

EKOenergy is [the international ecolabel](#) for energy. 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.

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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	Grid mix
New renewable energy production via our Climate Fund	✓	?	-
Only the most climate-friendly bioenergy	✓	?	-
Wind power outside bird and nature areas	✓	?	-
Hydropower takes into account migratory fish. River restoration projects via our Environmental Fund .	✓	?	-
Renewable energy tracked by EACs, such as GOs and I-RECs. (in line with Greenhouse Gas Protocol Scope 2 Guidance)	✓	✓	-
Wind, solar, hydro, geothermal, bioenergy	✓	✓	?
Fossil fuels, nuclear, possibly renewables	-	-	✓

Endorsed by other standards

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"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."

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