

Home lighting systems for rural villages in India



Through its Climate Fund, EKOenergy paid 17,000 € to the Indian NGO Gram Vikas, to bring light to rural areas. Involvement of local youth is a key element of the project.

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Picture: Gram Vikas

Rural households of the Kalahandi district in Odisha, India, are hugely affected by extreme poverty and malnourishment. Many attempts to improve living conditions had to be cancelled due to the dismal state of local infrastructure.

To improve access to energy and lighting, EKOenergy has granted €17,000 to the local NGO Gram Vikas.

Gram Vikas, which means 'Village development' works with rural communities in India. They started working in the field of energy in 1986, when they launched a biogas programme. Through that programme they installed over 54,000 biogas installations in about 6,000 villages. Gram Vikas is now developing activities related to solar energy too.

Through the financed project, Gram Vikas is introducing solar powered home lighting systems to several of the villages. The project has significantly improved the lives of at least 120 households.

The families, which previously didn't have access to electricity, have received solar lighting systems. To ensure the participation of the community, Gram Vikas asked for a 10% contribution from the community during the project development phase. This could be in form of labour or collection of local materials.

The households that participate in the program also make predefined monthly contributions, set in the monthly village committee meetings.

To guarantee the sustainability of the project, 12 young people from six villages in the Kalahandi district have been appointed as solar light operators by the Village Development Committees. Gram Vikas organised training sessions where these 12 learnt about troubleshooting and preventative maintenance of the solar home lighting units. The operators are in charge of the installation, maintenance and repair of the home lighting systems in their respective communities.

Climate Fund Projects



Focus on renewables and energy poverty (Global Goals 6,7&13)



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.

EKOenergy-labelled energy is sold by licensed energy companies and is [available in over 40 countries worldwide](#). Many of the 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	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

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."

