

# Solar Power for Health Clinics in Kayin State, Myanmar



## Project duration: 1 year

Remote health clinics provide vital services to local villages and refugee camps in Kayin state, on the Myanmar/Thailand border. In 2018 EKOenergy gave 17,735 € to install solar panels on nine of these clinics.

Text: Cameron Boggon

Pictures: Green Empowerment

More than 100,000 people have fled a 60-year long civil war between local armed groups and the Myanmar military in Kayin state, Myanmar. They now live in remote refugee camps along the border with Thailand, where overcrowding and geographic isolation make it difficult to continue supplying the camps with vital resources.

Nine health clinics, spread across the 900 km border, provide health services to many of these refugee camps and local villages. However, without access to electricity, the clinics have been limited in the services they are able to provide.

Financed by the EKOenergy Climate Fund and the Good Works Institute, the NGO Green Empowerment (USA) partnered with the NGO Border Green Energy (Myanmar) to install solar panels on these clinics. 17,735 € from EKOenergy combined with 16,000 € from the Good Works Institute was granted to provide 300 watt solar installations to each clinic.

Reliable telecommunications now allow the clinics to call family members, maintain regular contact with patients and call for emergency supplies. Refrigeration

allows medicines to be stored for much longer and access to lighting makes day-to-day practises like child birthing easier. Such an improvement also decreases the need for burning oil lamps, which produce fumes that are harmful to human health.

In addition to the nine health clinics, two solar systems were installed on a local school and on a training centre for addiction treatment workers. Three training programmes were also organised to teach members of the community how to use, maintain and repair the installations. Practical skills such as electrical maintenance are important to ensure that the installations remain fully functional over a long period of time. It is also important to ensure that communities set aside future savings in order to replace old parts such as the battery, which typically has a much shorter lifetime than the solar panel.

An estimated 16,000 people are served by these nine health clinics in Kayin State. Border Green Energy is now considering expanding on this work to build solar mini grids to offer electrical services to the entire community.

## Climate Fund Projects



Focus on energy poverty and multiple Sustainable Development Goals



New projects annually in developing countries



Run and monitored by trusted NGOs



Selected by an independent jury



In 2018, the Fund granted 238,693 € for 11 new projects



All EKOenergy users contribute 0.10 €/MWh to the Climate 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 <a href="#">Climate Fund</a>	✓	?	-
Only the most climate-friendly bioenergy	✓	?	-
Wind power outside bird and nature areas	✓	?	-
Hydropower takes into account migratory fish. River restoration projects via our <a href="#">Environmental Fund</a> .	✓	?	-
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."*

