

Safe and affordable solar energy in Sudan



EKOenergy's Climate Fund paid 85,000 € (45,000 € in 2017 and 40,000 € in 2018) to Practical Action's solar energy project in Sudan. The project's aim is to ensure that poor households in rural areas have access to safe, affordable and sustainable energy services.

Text: Thomas Hall
Picture: Practical Action

We detailed the first stage of the two-year project in our 2017 leaflet 'Solar powered smart village in Sudan' which you can see together with other climate leaflets on our website.

The second stage, in 2018-2019, saw the implementation of a solar lighting project that successfully reached a further 260 beneficiaries with 40 solar lighting home systems. Solar lighting has reduced indoor pollution and improved the health and safety of locals, particularly benefiting women who are freed from fetching biomass for lighting. These solar systems also come equipped with multiple types of mobile chargers. Additionally, a solar mill has been installed in the village. This is a huge benefit as locals now don't have to travel a long way to the mill in the city.

The project also aimed to give 20 women vendors, working at night markets, solar systems that provided light and recharging sockets to improve income generation. During the project, however, Sudan's security situation meant that women vendors were not able to work in the village night markets for safety reasons. The project overcame this problem by supplying two solar freezers for ice and ice-cream making, which furthered female-owned businesses and improved their livelihoods; resulting in healthier and safer working environments.

The provision of solar power has also improved medical, educational and community infra-

structure and services. The Barbujat health clinic was supplied with solar lights and fans which provide the birth attendants, dealing with night-time emergencies, with better working conditions. In addition, the introduction of solar lanterns in schools has enabled children to study longer and more effectively.

An increasing uptake of affordable solar technology has been seen through the establishment of a revolving fund. The Barbujat Women's Development Association of North Darfur was supported in maintaining a revolving fund that provides affordable loans to poor households, enabling them to purchase solar based equipment.

One local resident's view of the project indicates its success and impact on the community. "When I think about all the services that are provided by this project, I feel happy. Now they have the means to charge their mobile phones whenever they need, amongst other things. All in all, the entire project has really changed people's lives for the better."

In 2018, the project's success was recognised as it was showcased in the Gender Just Climate Solutions publications during COP24 in Poland.

Thanks a lot to all users of EKOenergy-labelled energy. Projects like these wouldn't be possible without you.

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 2019, the Fund granted 245,000 € 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."

