



Press release  
21 March 2023

## **ENGIE partners with CarbonClear to finance the access to energy challenge in Africa through the Voluntary Carbon Market**

A landmark partnership was signed today to foster the sustainable development and access to energy financing in Africa through the Voluntary Carbon Markets.

ENGIE Energy Access — one of the leading off-grid providers in Africa, ENGIE Global Energy Management & Sales (GEMS) – the energy management and sales division of the ENGIE Group, and CarbonClear – a data-driven and innovative carbon offset certification company, will partner in a pioneer agreement to accelerate the use of climate finance by the off-grid sector in sub-Saharan Africa through issuing and selling data-driven and impactful carbon credits.

Under the terms of the agreement, CarbonClear will be using its innovative and fully digital model to certify the carbon offset generated from the solar kits distributed by ENGIE Energy Access to rural and off-grid communities living in sub-Saharan Africa.

ENGIE GEMS will then assist ENGIE Energy Access in selling these credits to climate-conscious organisations wanting to offset their greenhouse gas emissions with projects that have a high social and environmental impact. The partnership targets to issue 500.000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e of offsets.

*“Achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal 7 of a universal access to energy by 2030 is largely falling behind. With this pivotal agreement, we ambition to contribute as a leader in the sector to catch-up while exploiting to its full potential the 2 billion USD Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM). Thanks to increasing traditional and, in this specific case, alternative funding means we will meet our target to impact 20 million people by 2025.”* said Gillian-Alexandre Huart, CEO of ENGIE Energy Access.

*“Carbon credits are an important lever to optimize the affordability of our products. We are therefore excited that the partnership with CarbonClear will enable us to mobilize additional climate finance and accelerate our growth”* declared Steven Fleurus, Head of Finance at ENGIE Energy Access.

Vincent Verbeke, Excom member at ENGIE GEMS comments : *“By leveraging on the efficiency and transparency of digital tools, the CarbonClear platform provides robust and transparent evidence of the environmental benefits ENGIE Energy Access brings to rural African communities and provides a unique opportunity for corporates to participate by purchasing carbon credits.”*

Through an IT integration between CarbonClear and MySolGo, the last-mile distribution software used by ENGIE Energy Access to monitor its PAYG operations, Micro Carbon Avoidances (MCAs) are created, which are made available to corporate buyers wishing to compensate for their CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. The carbon calculations applied are based on the established UN Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) methodology, and are third-party verified by DNV.



*“This partnership with ENGIE Energy Access and GEMS happens at a time when a number of global initiatives are exploring ways of strengthening the integrity of the voluntary carbon market, as well as its liquidity. By scaling CarbonClear’s proven data-driven model, this partnership will provide measurable carbon finance to impactful solar off-grid deployments throughout the marginalised areas of the world where ENGIE Energy Access operates.”* said Karim Jabbar, CEO and co-founder of CarbonClear.

This timely initiative responds to an emergency situation. Due to the Covid crisis and demographic evolution, the number of people living without access to electricity is now worsening, impacting 600 million people in Africa alone. Even more alarming, the Off-Grid Solar Market Trends Report 2022 published by GOGLA is even anticipating that this figure will stall throughout the end of this decade, if the sector does not receive additional funding. As such, the World Energy Outlook estimates that an additional 26 billion dollars per year are required to meet SDG7.

The recently launched Africa Carbon Market Initiative (ACMI) during the COP27 highlighted the important role the Voluntary Carbon Market could and should play in addressing this situation. It builds on the observation that access to energy companies face significant difficulties to mobilise funding from the VCM due to inadequate validation and certification methodologies and particularly long lead times.

### **About ENGIE**

ENGIE is a global reference in low-carbon energy and services. With its 96,000 employees, its customers, partners and stakeholders, the Group is committed to accelerate the transition towards a carbon-neutral world, through reduced energy consumption and more environmentally friendly solutions. Inspired by its purpose (“raison d’être”), ENGIE reconciles economic performance with a positive impact on people and the planet, building on its key businesses (gas, renewable energy, services) to offer competitive solutions to its customers. Turnover in 2022: 93.9 billion Euros. The Group is listed on the Paris and Brussels stock exchanges (ENGI) and is represented in the main financial indices (CAC 40, Euronext 100, FTSE Euro 100, MSCI Europe) and non-financial indices (DJSI World, Euronext Vigeo Eiris - Europe 120 / France 20, MSCI EMU ESG screened, MSCI EUROPE ESG Universal Select, Stoxx Europe 600 ESG-X).

### **About ENGIE Energy Access** [www.engie-energyaccess.com](http://www.engie-energyaccess.com)

ENGIE Energy Access is the leading Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) and mini-grids solutions provider in Africa. The company develops innovative, off-grid solar solutions for homes, public services and businesses, enabling customers and distribution partners access to clean, affordable energy. The PAYGO solar home systems are financed through affordable instalments from \$0.19 per day and the mini-grids foster economic development by enabling electrical productive use and triggering business opportunities for entrepreneurs in rural communities. With over 1,700 employees, operations in nine countries across Africa (Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia), over 1.9 million customers and more than 9.5 million lives impacted so far, ENGIE Energy Access aims to impact 20 million lives across Africa by 2025. *Press contact: [katia.damman@engie.com](mailto:katia.damman@engie.com)*

### **About CarbonClear**

As a pioneer in data-driven carbon credit issuance from the solar off-grid sector, CarbonClear aims at scaling its data-driven model as a bona fide standard for the Voluntary Carbon Market, transforming carbon finance to tangible social and environmental impact in underserved communities.

CarbonClear’s transformative new model for the carbon market enables fast, reliable, and cost-effective generation of verified carbon credits in a globally accessible and inclusive value chain. The data-driven model leverages clear data points from the onboarded solar partners, building trust through transparency and measurable impact. Since its founding five years ago, CarbonClear has forged strategic partnerships with a number of the best-established Solar Home System distributors in the market, the key third-party software providers used to track usage and payments of PAYGO systems, as well as with DNV that acts as third-party verifier of the robustness and integrity of the issued carbon credits.



hello@carbonclear.earth