

## **Eneco Signs \$20 Million CO2 Offset Deal for Ugandan Stoves**

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*By Catherine Airlie*

Feb. 13 (Bloomberg) -- Eneco Energy Trading BV, the trading arm of Eneco Holding NV, signed a 15 million-euro (\$20 million) agreement with UpEnergy Group to buy United Nations carbon credits from a project to distribute cooking stoves across Uganda.

UpEnergy, a San Francisco company that develops initiatives including water purification and solar light projects, is selling the cook stoves in Uganda at a rate of about 1,000 units a month, Erik Wurster, a managing director at the company, said by telephone from San Francisco. The project may sell about 500,000 stoves throughout Uganda, he said. The emissions saved from using the stoves will be verified by risk management company DNV, he said.

Replacing traditional wood-burning fires with cleaner, faster cooking stoves may help fight climate change, reduce poverty by lowering cooking costs and curb deforestation. About 2.7 billion people, or 40 percent of the world's population, do not have access to clean cooking facilities, according to the International Energy Agency's annual report.

"We have looked at many cookstove projects up to now, and they have their own particular implementation and economic challenges," Mark Meyrick, head of carbon for Rotterdam-based Eneco Energy Trade, said in an e-mailed statement. The deal is for 1.5 million UN Certified Emission Reduction credits in the eight years through 2020, Meyrick said by telephone.

The initiative will create UN carbon credits that can be used to comply with targets under the Kyoto Protocol and the European Union's emissions trading system. UN credits for delivery in December lost 2.1 percent to 3.75 euros a metric ton as of 9:46 a.m. on London's ICE Futures Europe exchange. The offsets have fallen 67 percent in the last year as a struggling European economy has sapped demand while emissions-cutting projects increased supplies.

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