

Eneco signs PoA deal for Ugandan cookstoves

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Amsterdam, 13 February (Argus) — Dutch utility Eneco's trading arm, Eneco Energy Trade, and San Francisco and Kampala-based social enterprise UpEnergy today announced a joint initiative to develop a programme of activities (PoA) in Uganda that will provide low-income communities with access to energy-saving household cookstoves.

The investment, estimated at €15mn (\$19.9mn), represents one of the largest carbon finance commitments made to clean cookstoves in the sector's history, Eneco said. PoAs group smaller projects together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the umbrella of one clean development mechanism (CDM) project.

It is planned that there will be nine project activities under the PoA and each of them will run for at least seven years. In total, the PoA is expected to generate around 1.5mn certified emission reduction (CER) units up to 2020, Eneco said.

The companies will target over 95pc of the Ugandan population that currently cook with wood and charcoal over open fires. UpEnergy's biomass stoves decrease biomass consumption by over 50pc and reduce indoor air pollution. The biomass stove thereby saves fuel and reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which generates CERs. The project will also curb deforestation and alleviate poverty by reducing cooking costs.

“After carefully evaluating UpEnergy's project we are confident that they have the ability, vision and wherewithal to make this venture a success in a part of the world where the pressure on biomass for cooking purposes, as well as the health challenges, are considerable,” Eneco's head of carbon Mark Meyrick said.

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