

[< Back](#) | [Home](#)

Dutch energy company opens American branch in West Sacramento

Substainible energy firm's goals include solar panel systems

Courtney Burks

Posted: 2/9/07

A Netherlands-based multinational corporation will open its first American branch and U.S. headquarters in Yolo County this year. Ecostream, whose parent company was established in 1984, is an organization that claims to be interested in clean-energy investment and delivering unique projects and innovative products and services for sustainable energy supply.

Ecostream markets such things as solar roof panel installations and other long-term renewable energy solutions and will open at 2945 Ramco St. in West Sacramento. The business plans to bring new technology and skilled labor jobs to the Sacramento area.

Fareid Muscati, CEO of Ecostream's U.S. companies, said the European sustainable energy provider already holds offices in 14 countries. He said he thinks Ecostream's arrival in West Sacramento will boost the image of the area and the renewable power sector in California.

"Our target is to bring solar systems into the region," Muscati said. "This will help to become more independent from foreign oil, coal and nuclear power. Decentralized power supply through solar systems will [remove] stress from the electrical grid and help to avoid blackouts."

Muscati also said the company will be hiring 15 new people within the year and that students in the area will be a target for its new employment.

"We are looking for students who do engineering work on projects on an hourly basis during their study," Muscati said. "Once they graduate and collect experience in Ecostream, there may be a good opportunity to move into long-term employment."

Sue Greenwald, mayor of Davis, said she didn't know much about the Ecostream company but that the city is very interested in promoting projects that practice sustainable development.

"[The Davis City Council] is very excited about companies moving to our region that have similar concerns as we do about the environment," Greenwald said. "In fact, a sub-committee in the council is planning to work on a new carbon-reduction policy for the city, and I intend to be involved in such progress."

Cynthia Lin, assistant professor in both the agricultural and resource economics and environmental science and policy departments at UC Davis, said she thinks it is wonderful that Ecostream is coming to the Sacramento area and that UC Davis is a prime location for research on sustainability.

"In my research, I am looking at the decisions of firms and countries to invest in the research and

development of sustainable energy, as well as at their decisions to adopt sustainable energy technology," Lin said. "Having a sustainable energy company right next door [will give] me a terrific opportunity to see firsthand how these investment and adoption decisions are made."

Lin also said it is important that these kinds of companies come to Yolo County, as they will not only benefit the economy, but the environment as well.

"Since proximity and network effects often play a large role in whether a particular technology is adopted, having Ecostream in our county would likely cause a substantial increase in the adoption of sustainable energy technology," Lin said. "[The county] has a tremendous opportunity to serve as a model community for the rest of the United States."

Ecostream has not yet set an official opening date, but it is looking to launch its first U.S. branch sometime in the coming year.

COURTNEY BURKS can be reached at city@californiaaggie.com.

© Copyright 2007 The California Aggie