



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

E+Co Adopts Equator Principles

October 30, 2006, Bloomfield, New Jersey: E+Co, the leading provider of services and capital to modern energy enterprises in developing countries, continues its tradition of socially and environmentally responsible business practices by adopting the Equator Principles. E+Co joins 40 other international financial institutions in adopting these benchmark principles to manage social and environmental issues in project financing.

"For more than ten years E+Co has embraced the concepts that underpin the Equator Principles", said Phil LaRocco, E+Co Executive Director. "We are pleased to join with so many fine financial institutions in formally adopting these principles. Our mission is to empower energy enterprises. Our developing country entrepreneurs establish sustainable enterprises to improve the livelihoods of their local communities, in ways that are sound from a business, societal and environmental perspective. The Equator Principles are a natural step for them and for us."

In adopting the Equator Principles, organizations undertake to provide funding only to those projects whose sponsors can demonstrate their ability and willingness to comply with comprehensive processes aimed at ensuring that projects are developed in a socially responsible manner and according to sound environmental management practices. The Equator Principles, established in 2003, use a screening process for projects that categorizes projects as high, medium or low environmental or social risk. Issues taken into account include the use of natural resources; protection of human health, cultural properties and biodiversity; dangerous substances, major hazards, occupational health, fire prevention and life safety; land acquisition and use; involuntary resettlement and impacts on indigenous peoples and communities; delivery and use of energy; pollution prevention and waste minimization, pollution controls, solid and chemical waste management and other environmental and social issues. To ensure compliance, E+Co's enterprises participate in a bi-annual Monitoring and Evaluation Program that assesses the environmental, financial and social impacts of their business.

E+Co's successful approach to *triple bottom line investing* in developing countries has resulted in:

- 120 enterprises providing modern energy services to almost 3 million people
- 2,600 jobs sustained and generating over \$6 million a year in income
- 203,710 tons of firewood saved and 59 million liters of clean water provided
- 1.9 million tons of CO₂ offset
- \$128 million of capital mobilized for these enterprises

E+Co is a not-for-profit, public purpose investment company, with offices in Bolivia, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, the Netherlands, South Africa, Thailand and the United States. For additional information contact: Gina Rodolico, 1.973.680.9100, g.rodolico@EandCo.net or visit www.EandCo.net.