

**Asset: EcoEléctrica**  
**Location: United Kingdom (Europe)**  
**Case Study: EcoEléctrica wins Platts Global Energy Award**

**2006**

## **CR Performance Case Study**

EcoEléctrica Power Station: EcoEléctrica wins Platts Global Energy Award

Nearly 500 top executives from more than a dozen countries gathered for the Platts Global Energy Awards gala event held in New York, USA on Thursday 30 November 2006. The evening dinner and ceremony was preceded by an Executive forum, at which industry leaders, market analysts, and academic scholars discussed issues surrounding global energy security.



Now in its eighth year, the Platts Global Energy Awards is considered to be one of the most prestigious awards in the energy sector, placing extreme emphasis on two things: precision and full commitment. In 2006 more than 200 nominations were received from energy companies worldwide.

Evident in all the winners was their supreme ability to focus on goals, whether in turning around a failing business or completing a complex engineering project to schedule. Equally evident was the importance of belief: be it in the importance of sustainable development, corporate ethics, or the viability of renewable energy. These winning companies and their employees are genuinely committed and have the clarity of vision and the abilities to fulfil that purpose.

Category      Community Development Program of the Year  
Winner        EcoEléctrica, Puerto Rico

In the opinion of the judges, EcoEléctrica's efforts in community development outshine those of much larger energy businesses around the world for sheer commitment and social responsibility.

The company operates the only natural gas-fired power plant in Puerto Rico, and has the distinction of being the first independent power producer in the world to integrate a power plant with an liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal.

But that isn't why EcoEléctrica won this award.

Based in a depressed area in the south of Puerto Rico, the company chose from the outset to try at all times to be a source of economic regeneration. Towns in the area are plagued by unemployment, few educational

opportunities and industrial waste contamination from a now-defunct petrochemical industry.

EcoEléctrica created a social engagement plan that it calls 'EEE' – Employment for the community, Education, and Environmental enhancement.

Rather than importing labour and skills it chose to hire from the local community, creating over 1,000 direct and indirect jobs just during construction. Today 82% of employees are from the local community.

In education the company invests annually in a college scholarship program for forty students, and contributes materials and equipment for schools.

The environment program stresses knowledge and protection of corals, sea grass and manatees; promoting land conservation and environmental education. EcoEléctrica provided half the funds needed to purchase 85 acres of the El Convento Cave, the only ecosystem in Puerto Rico that has an underground river.

Employees join forces annually to clean-up local beaches, co-organise a recycling contest with 38 schools in the south of the island, and take part in blood donor drives with other local companies.

Other community initiatives include coaching for local sports teams, fundraising for humanitarian causes, together with match funding employee endeavours.

Bruce Levy, Executive Director for the US said "I was honoured to accept this award on behalf of EcoEléctrica. The entire team should be proud of the accomplishments made in this area, and it is gratifying that they have been recognised so publicly. Congratulations."

EcoEléctrica is a 524 MW plant in Puerto Rico. International Power and Mitsui acquired 50% from Edison Mission Energy in 2004 (in a 70:30 partnership) and the asset now forms part of International Power's North American portfolio. The remaining 50% is held by Gas Natural.