



For immediate release

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EcoLogic Finance Named “Rising Star” in 2006 Social Capitalist Award Competition

Fast Company magazine and Monitor Group recognize EcoLogic Finance for “outstanding potential” among entrepreneurial organizations in the social sector

Cambridge, MA: February 6, 2006 - EcoLogic Finance, a nonprofit bank, announced today that Fast Company magazine and Monitor Group selected it as one of two “rising stars” in their 2006 Social Capitalist Award Competition. The Social Capitalist Award honors non-profit organizations that develop innovative entrepreneurial approaches to creating systemic social change. Social entrepreneurs were scored on their performance in five categories – social impact, aspiration and growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainability. The evaluation team consisted of 10 consultants from the Monitor Group and 43 experts in fields such as international development, human rights, and education reform.

“We are honored and excited to be selected as a rising star in the 2006 Social Capitalist Award competition,” said EcoLogic Finance President William F. Foote. “The smallholder farmers, women, and indigenous people we lend to play a critical role as stewards of the land. With the increased recognition we gain through this award we hope to attract the funds needed to expand our reach, helping many more local entrepreneurs grow their businesses while protecting the environment.”

For more information, visit <http://www.fastcompany.com/social/2006/rising-stars.html>

About EcoLogic Finance

EcoLogic Finance was born from the idea that the greatest threat to the environment is massive human poverty. It provides affordable loans and financial training to small-scale producers living in critical ecosystems. Borrowers are cooperatives and business associations in Latin America and East Africa that are too large for microcredit agencies and too small or untested to be “bankable” with commercial lenders. EcoLogic Finance loans benefit villagers involved in agroforestry (shade-grown and sustainable agriculture), wild-harvested products, certified wood, sustainable fisheries, handicrafts and ecotourism. The organization’s primary focus is on sustainable coffee, which comprises more than 70 percent of its portfolio.

Launched in 2000, EcoLogic Finance manages a \$12 million portfolio of \$25,000 to \$500,000 loans. Its loan capital and operating funds come from more than 50 socially responsible investors, including the Citigroup Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, the Global Development Alliance of USAID, the Goldman Sachs Foundation, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, the Packard Foundation, the Skoll Foundation and Starbucks Coffee Company, which is the largest investor, with \$5 million committed to date.

In the countries in which it operates, EcoLogic Finance is one of the only nonprofit development organizations with the financial strength, cultural expertise and on-the-ground relationships to effectively bridge the rural financing gap. Building on its record and reputation, Ecologic Finance serves as a “hometown” banker for sustainable farming communities worldwide. For more information, visit www.ecologicfinance.org

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