

Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC) Given Consensus Rating of "Reduce" by Brokerages

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Shares of **Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC - Get Free Report)** have received a consensus rating of "Reduce" from the six analysts that are covering the stock, [MarketBeat.com](#) reports. One research analyst has rated the stock with a sell recommendation and five have assigned a hold recommendation to the company. The average 1 year price target among brokers that have issued a report on the stock in the last year is \$12.35.

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EC has been the subject of several analyst reports. Citigroup downgraded shares of **Ecopetrol** from a "buy" rating to a "neutral" rating and set a \$12.50 target price for the company, in a research note on Wednesday, September 13th. Jefferies Financial Group initiated coverage on shares of **Ecopetrol** in a research note on Thursday, September 21st. They set an "underperform" rating and a \$11.20 price objective for the company. Finally, [StockNews.com](#) initiated coverage on shares of **Ecopetrol** in a research note on Thursday, October 5th. They set a "hold" rating for the company.

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A number of hedge funds and other institutional investors have recently modified their holdings of EC. Vanguard Group Inc. lifted its stake in **Ecopetrol** by 1.0% in the 3rd quarter. Vanguard Group Inc. now owns 3,086,272 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$35,739,000 after acquiring an additional 29,731 shares in the last quarter. Sunbelt Securities Inc. raised its stake in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 47.0% during the 3rd quarter. Sunbelt Securities Inc. now owns 24,385 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$282,000 after purchasing an additional 7,800 shares in the last quarter. Citigroup Inc. raised its stake in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 20.4% during the 3rd quarter. Citigroup Inc. now owns 58,220 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$674,000 after purchasing an additional 9,878 shares in the last quarter. American Century Companies Inc. raised its stake in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 9.0% during the 3rd quarter. American Century Companies Inc. now owns 217,321 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$2,517,000 after purchasing an additional 18,034 shares in the last quarter. Finally, Penserra Capital Management LLC raised its stake in shares of **Ecopetrol** by 0.8% during the 3rd quarter. Penserra Capital

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management LLC raised its stake in shares of [Ecopetrol](#) by 90.0% during the 3rd quarter. Pensenra Capital Management LLC now owns 56,025 shares of the oil and gas company's stock worth \$648,000 after purchasing an additional 27,559 shares in the last quarter. Institutional investors and hedge funds own 1.29% of the company's stock.

Ecopetrol Price Performance

[Ecopetrol stock](#) opened at \$11.94 on Friday. [Ecopetrol](#) has a 52 week low of \$8.59 and a 52 week high of \$13.14. The company has a quick ratio of 1.21, a current ratio of 1.21 and a debt-to-equity ratio of 0.90. The firm's 50-day simple moving average is \$12.28 and its 200 day simple moving average is \$11.57. The firm has a market capitalization of \$24.55 billion, a PE ratio of 5.12 and a beta of 1.38.

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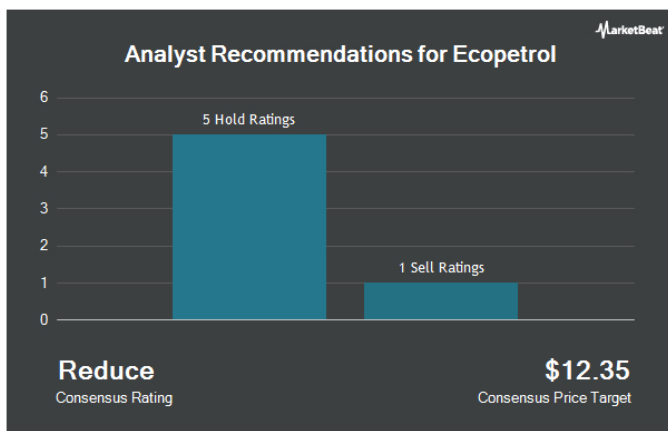
[Ecopetrol](#) (NYSE:EC - [Get Free Report](#)) last announced its earnings results on Thursday, November 9th. The oil and gas company reported \$0.61 earnings per share for the quarter, beating the consensus estimate of \$0.51 by \$0.10. [Ecopetrol](#) had a net margin of 14.58% and a return on equity of 8.68%. The firm had revenue of \$8.68 billion during the quarter, compared to the consensus estimate of \$8.67 billion. On average, equities research analysts predict that [Ecopetrol](#) will post 2.32 EPS for the current fiscal year.

Ecopetrol Company Profile [\(Get Free Report\)](#)

[Ecopetrol SA](#) operates as an integrated energy company. The company operates through four segments: Exploration and Production; Transport and Logistics; Refining, Petrochemical and Biofuels; and Electric Power Transmission and Toll Roads Concessions. It engages in the exploration and production of oil and gas; transportation of crude oil, motor fuels, fuel oil, and other refined products, including diesel, jet, and biofuels; processing and refining crude oil; distribution of natural gas and LPG; sale of refined and petrochemical products; supplying of electric power transmission services; design, development, construction, operation, and maintenance of road and energy infrastructure projects; and supplying of information technology and telecommunications services.

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While [Ecopetrol](#) currently has a "Reduce" rating among analysts, top-rated analysts believe these five stocks are better buys.

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345 N Reid Place, Suite 620, Sioux Falls, SD 57103
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