

Mercer Global Advisors Inc. ADV Invests \$186,000 in Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC)

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Mercer Global Advisors Inc. ADV bought a new position in shares of Ecopetrol S.A. (NYSE:EC - [Get Rating](#)) in the 4th quarter, according to its most recent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The firm bought 17,748 shares of the oil and gas company's stock, valued at approximately \$186,000.

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Several other institutional investors and hedge funds have also recently made changes to their positions in the company. BlackRock Inc. raised its holdings in shares of Ecopetrol by 6.2% in the third quarter. BlackRock Inc. now owns 5,145,205 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$45,948,000 after acquiring an additional 298,224 shares in the last quarter. Vanguard Group Inc. raised its holdings in shares of Ecopetrol by 5.5% in the third quarter. Vanguard Group Inc. now owns 2,984,353 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$26,650,000 after acquiring an additional 156,689 shares in the last quarter. Marshall Wace LLP grew its stake in Ecopetrol by 120.8% in the third quarter. Marshall Wace LLP now owns 1,249,618 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$11,160,000 after purchasing an additional 683,746 shares during the last quarter. Crossmark Global Holdings Inc. grew its stake in Ecopetrol by 5,979.3% in the fourth quarter. Crossmark Global Holdings Inc. now owns 936,760 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$9,808,000 after purchasing an additional 921,351 shares during the last quarter. Finally, Allspring Global Investments Holdings LLC grew its stake in Ecopetrol by 1.6% in the fourth quarter. Allspring Global Investments Holdings LLC now owns 935,589 shares of the oil and gas company's stock valued at \$9,796,000 after purchasing an additional 15,035 shares during the last quarter. 1.30% of the stock is currently owned by institutional investors.

Analysts Set New Price Targets

Several research firms have issued reports on EC. UBS Group lowered Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "neutral" rating and set a \$13.00 target price on the stock. in a research note on Thursday, February 9th. The Goldman Sachs Group cut their target price on Ecopetrol from \$12.40 to \$11.00 and set a "neutral" rating on the stock in a research note on Wednesday, March 15th. HSBC lowered Ecopetrol from a "buy" rating to a "hold" rating and dropped their price target for the stock from \$12.50 to \$12.00 in a research note on Friday, February 10th. Finally, [StockNews.com](#) initiated coverage on Ecopetrol in a research note on Thursday, May 18th. They set a "hold" rating on the stock. Four analysts have rated the stock with a hold rating. According to data from MarketBeat.com, Ecopetrol presently has a consensus rating of "Hold" and an average target price of \$12.00.

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Ecopetrol Price Performance

Shares of [NYSE:EC](#) opened at \$9.34 on Friday. The business's 50 day moving average price is \$10.08 and its 200 day moving average price is \$10.35. The firm has a market cap of \$19.20 billion, a P/E ratio of 2.41 and a beta of 1.43. [Ecopetrol S.A.](#) has a 52 week low of \$8.59 and a 52 week high of \$17.60. The company has a quick ratio of 1.00, a current ratio of 1.14 and a debt-to-equity ratio of 1.00.

[Ecopetrol \(NYSE:EC - Get Rating\)](#) last issued its earnings results on Wednesday, March 29th. The oil and gas company reported \$0.69 EPS for the quarter, beating analysts' consensus estimates of \$0.65 by \$0.04. The firm had revenue of \$8.26 billion for the quarter, compared to analyst estimates of \$8.31 billion.

[Ecopetrol](#) had a return on equity of 15.81% and a net margin of 19.92%. On average, sell-side analysts expect that [Ecopetrol S.A.](#) will post 2.08 earnings per share for the current year.

Ecopetrol Dividend Announcement

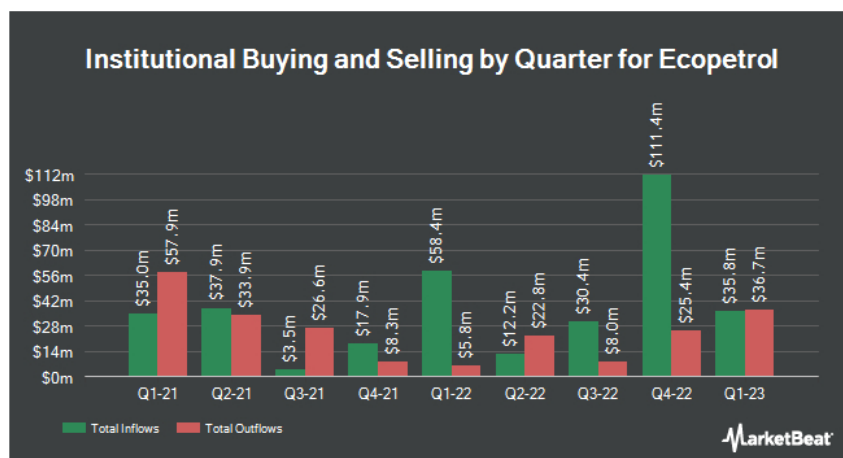
The business also recently declared a – dividend, which will be paid on Friday, December 29th. Shareholders of record on Wednesday, December 20th will be issued a \$0.1479 dividend. This represents a yield of 20.4%. The ex-dividend date is Tuesday, December 19th. [Ecopetrol](#)'s payout ratio is presently 52.45%.

Ecopetrol Profile [\(Get Rating\)](#)

[Ecopetrol SA](#) engages in the exploration, development, and production of crude oil and natural gas. It operates through the following segments: Exploration and Production, Transportation and Logistics, and Refining and Petrochemicals. The Exploration and Production segment deals with oil and gas exploration and production activities.

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Before you consider Ecopetrol, you'll want to hear this.

MarketBeat keeps track of Wall Street's top-rated and best performing research analysts and the stocks they recommend to their clients on a daily basis. MarketBeat has identified the [five stocks](#) that top analysts are quietly whispering to their clients to buy now before the broader market catches on... and Ecopetrol wasn't on the list.

While Ecopetrol currently has a "Hold" rating among analysts, top-rated analysts believe these five stocks are better buys.

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