

# Efore's LED power supplies speed up the revolution of food production in Silicon Valley

FarmEcology, founded in San Jose, CA in 2016, is a trail-blazer in one of the most significant trends in food production: vertical farming. Instead of traditional agriculture, vertical farming entails producing food in a closed, artificially manufactured ecosystem, in which the acreage is multiplied by stacking crops on top of each other.

Vertical farming systems look a bit like data centers, but the stands contain plants instead of servers. At its farms FarmEcology produces a wide variety of different types of lettuce and herbs and specialty mini-greens for fine dining restaurants.

Vertical farms function all year round in any location, and, if done correctly, can save substantial amounts of water and space. Because of the fast grow times and constant cycling with no interruptions from weather to the seasons, FarmEcology's six thousand square feet (~560 square meters) of rack floor space generates production equivalent of 34 acres (~ 14 hectares) of outside land. Vertical farms can change the way the world produces food in the near future.

Vertical farming also enables food to be produced near its consumers, ensuring the food is fresh by eliminating long transportation times from the countryside to cities. FarmEcology's products mostly end up in high-quality restaurants in Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area.

The highly controlled growth environment also results in very clean food with zero pesticide use and the highest quality produce nature is capable of growing.

## Reliable LED light that adapts to every situation

A vertical farm such as FarmEcology requires a stable technological environment. With indoor farming the most important factor is reliable and a precise kind of lighting. Lighting is one of the most critical aspects of indoor farming, replacing the sun with an artificial source that is as optimized as the growing conditions. Here is where Efore comes in.

FarmEcology's Chief Technology Officer and one of its founders, Steve Oster, is a long term expert in all things related to lighting and energy. He cooperated with Efore with a lighting project in his previous job and found Efore to be a high-quality and reliable technology partner. That's why Efore was a natural choice to be FarmEcology's technology provider as well.

*"I designed in Efore with confidence because I knew from experience the reliability was solid" Steve says. "Two years of almost continuous operation has proven that Efore product was the right choice".*

Currently approximately 2,000 of Efore's programmable LED power sources have been installed in FarmEcology's farms. They help in providing the right kind of lighting for plants 24 hours a day. The programmability of power sources is the key so that the power and color of the light can be adjusted to correctly fit all stages of growth or to optimize particular characteristic of specialty greens to suit customer requirements.



## From Silicon Valley to the world

FarmEcology was the first indoor agriculture startup founded in the Silicon Valley area. The company's location is a true test for its business: startup and operating cost in Silicon Valley is very high - if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere.

And it looks like making it is exactly what they will do. FarmEcology is currently expanding its farm, which means an increased need for LED power sources as well.

According to Steve Oster *"As we move to new generations of power conversion, distribution, and control systems we look forward to continue working with Efore as a technology partner to deliver the reliability, efficiency, and control options we need"*.

### Further information:

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