



Summary Brochure

From Grüner Gockel to EMAS



Benefits of a step-up from Grüner Gockel to EMAS

Church facilities that decide to step up from Grüner Gockel to EMAS might benefit from a scheme with a wider geographical scope. Whereas the Grüner Gockel is geographically limited to Germany, EMAS is operational and officially recognised Europe-wide. EMAS also offers the advantage of being legally recognised through a European Council Regulation and certified organisations are listed in a public register. There are no other major benefits, as all requirements of the Grüner Gockel correspond to those of EMAS, and church facilities therefore enjoy the same benefits such as legal security as well as cost and resource savings.

Introduction

Origin and development

The Grüner Gockel is an EMS for church facilities in Germany. The idea of “churchly” environmental management is based on the central duty of the church to protect the earth as the creation of God. The evangelical church of Württemberg therefore developed the basis of the Grüner Gockel scheme in 2000. The scheme is available across Germany and currently mainly implemented in the regions of Baden Württemberg and Nordrhein Westfalen. In Northern Germany it is called “Grüner Hahn”. The programme was designed with a potential EMAS certification in mind.

The Grüner Gockel is organised by the regional churches in Germany. Since 2003 the regional churches, dioceses, and other establishments that are involved present the “Churchly Environmental Management” network (KirUm). The institution “Environmental audits in churches” and KATE Stuttgart have developed training for environmental auditors and implement the EMS. Consultancy and support for the implementation is provided by voluntary environmental auditors or environmental officers. The independent institutions KATE Stuttgart or FEST Heidelberg participate as external consultants in a number of projects.

Approximately 300 church facilities have implemented the scheme so far.

Objectives

Objectives are to protect the environment while reducing operating costs. As a by-product, environmental management stimulates the life within the parish. Furthermore, the church is seen as an example that is followed by many, so that the implementation of the EMS will have important indirect impacts on the members of the congregation. Aspects of occupational health and safety are also included in the requirements.

Closeness to EMAS

All criteria of the Grüner Gockel correspond to those of EMAS.

For further information on the EMS, please contact:

Dr. Hans-Hermann Böhm
Commissioner of the Protestant Church in Württemberg
Tel +49 711 2068 253
Email: umwelt@elk-wue.de
Website: www.gruener-gockel.de

For further information on these guidelines, please contact:

EMAS Helpdesk
Tel: +33 (0)1 53 90 11 75
Email: emas@biois.com
Website: ec.europa.eu/environment/emas



From Grüner Gockel to EMAS: Additional Steps

All criteria of the Grüner Gockel correspond to those of EMAS. There are hence no additional steps that need to be taken by a church facility to 'step-up' from Grüner Gockel to EMAS.