

EMS Factsheet

Grüner Gockel



Overview

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. 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.

Implementation structure

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.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

Focus on church facilities

Implementing institution

The Evangelical Church

Available since

2002

Geographical scope

Germany

Target group

Church facilities

Size of targeted companies

All

Total number of certifications

300

Number of participants in the process of certification

100

Most important drivers and barriers

Drivers

- ☒ Available marketing tools
- ☒ Cost/resource savings
- ☒ Customer/supplier demand
- ☒ Environmental benefits
- ☒ Legal security
- ☒ Political support / financial incentives
- ☒ Proof of corporate social responsibility
- Other: n/a

Barriers

- ☒ EMS little recognised
- ☐ High implementation costs
- ☐ Little similarities to EMAS or ISO 14001
- ☐ Perceived complication/unattainability:
- Other: n/a

☒ Yes

☐ No

The EMS in detail	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commitment of top management: Yes, required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental review: Through the use of checklists, an internal assessment is undertaken based on an inventory of the environmental situation of the church facility. A specially trained "Churchly environmental auditor" accompanies the organisation for one year.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental policy or guidelines: An environmental policy needs to be developed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proof of legal compliance: Yes, required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objectives and environmental management programme: Yes, deadlines for the defined measures are set and resources are to be made available.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Definition of organisational structure at company level: Yes, required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Training and education requirements: Yes, required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication (internal and external): As the church facility sees itself as a role model in environmentally responsible behaviour, communicating about the EMS is essential but it is not required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Documentation requirements: All results of the environmental review and the internal follow-up are to be documented in the "Green Book".
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal follow- up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: Regular internal follow-up is required. Corrective actions and continuous improvement are basic requirements of the scheme, which means that it will act as a driver for innovation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management review: Yes, required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental report/ statement or similar publication by the participants of the EMS: An environmental declaration is required to inform the internal and external public of the environmental commitment of the parish.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/Required <input type="checkbox"/> Partially addressed <input type="checkbox"/> Not indicated or not required	

External audit/certification

Is an external audit required for the criteria mentioned in the box above? Yes

Responsibility for the external audit and qualifications needed: Specially trained churchly environmental auditors are responsible for the audit.

External audit period: 3 years.

Certification: Following a successful external audit, the church facility is awarded the Grüner Gockel certification. Companies are offered to go through the EMAS certification process at the same time.

Similarities to EMAS

- ☒ Initial environmental review
- ☒ Environmental policy
- ☒ Legal compliance
- ☒ Employee involvement
- ☒ Planning
- ☒ Implementation
- ☒ Checking and corrective action
- ☒ Continuous improvement
- ☒ Management review
- ☒ Certification
- ☒ Environmental statement
- ☒ Validation of environmental statement

Relation of the EMS to EMAS: **Very close**

For further information on the EMS, please contact:

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