

EMS Factsheet

Eco-Lighthouse Programme



ECO-LIGHTHOUSE

Overview

Origin and development

The Eco-Lighthouse programme emerged from a Local Agenda 21 pilot project in the Norwegian city of Kristiansand in 1996 and has since developed into a nation-wide initiative coordinated by an Eco-Lighthouse secretariat. Today, most of the local authorities in central and south Norway run Eco-Lighthouse programmes. Specific criteria have been developed for 63 industries in close co-operation with companies. The criteria cover environmental, health and safety legislation as well as energy use and emissions and set benchmarks for each industry. The Eco-Lighthouse certificate is awarded by the local authority once a company fulfils all industry-specific requirements. In 2005, 500 certificates were awarded and in 2007 there were 1120 valid certificates. The Eco-Lighthouse Program is supported by the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment.

Objectives

The Eco-Lighthouse Program helps SMEs and public administrations in Norway to meet environmental challenges. It is a tailor-made programme for environmental certification with the underlying strategy to systematically develop industry-specific certification criteria.

Implementation structure

A national board with seven representatives oversees the programme, approves industry criteria and reports to the Norwegian Ministry of Environment. The Eco-Lighthouse Office is responsible for marketing at the national level and for the continuous development of the programme. The municipalities recruit new companies, assign consultants to companies, oversee media coverage, conduct certification inspections, and award the certificates. Local consultants conduct environmental analyses with input from the environmental groups formed by company management and employees. A total of 187 local authorities are members of the network. Almost all local authorities in central Norway implement Eco-Lighthouse.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

Strong emphasis on cooperation with local authorities

Implementing institution

Municipality of Kristiansand with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of the Environment

Available since

1996

Geographical scope

Norway

Target group

Private companies and public administration of all sectors

Size of targeted companies

SMEs

Total number of certifications

1422

Number of participants in the process of certification

n/a

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 not widely recognised
- ☐ High implementation costs
- ☐ Little similarities to EMAS or ISO 14001
- ☐ Perceived complication/unattainability
- Other: n/a

☒ Yes

☐ No

The EMS in detail

<input type="checkbox"/>	Commitment of top management: Not required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental review: Industry criteria for environmental review are developed in cooperation with selected companies. The criteria take into account direct environmental impacts and some indirect environmental impacts depending on the industry sector.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental policy or guidelines: The environmental consultant conducts the environmental analysis and develops an action plan together with the environmental group of the company, but it is the company that has ownership/responsibility of the project.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of legal compliance: The EMS is implemented in cooperation with local authorities, who verify that the company does not face any environmental legal claims.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Objectives and environmental management programme: The company's environmental group works out a plan of action to fulfil industry requirements for certification based on criteria relevant for their industry. The plan of action includes measures to be carried out over a three-year period.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Definition of organisational structure at company level: Each company must designate an environmental officer and set up an environmental group comprising representatives from management and production, including employees with a personal interest in environmental issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training and education requirements: The Eco-Lighthouse Foundation conducts training for auditors (municipalities, counties and regions) and consultants. The training course includes an in-depth study of the Eco-Lighthouse programme, industry criteria, as well as health/safety and environmental aspects.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication (internal and external): All employees in the company must be provided with environmental management information. Municipalities also use media sources to communicate Eco lighthouse activities, such as new certifications.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentation requirements: Not required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal follow- up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: The EMS includes the establishment of monitoring systems for health, safety, and environment indicators of the company. As continuous improvement is not a key requirement of the EMS, the influence of its implementation on innovation is limited.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Management review: Not required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental report/ statement or similar publication by the participants of the EMS: An annual environmental report is required reviewing the company's environmental information from the past year, as well as proposing an action plan for the current year.

☒ Yes/Required
 ☐ Partially addressed
 ☐ Not indicated or not required

External audit/certification

Is an external audit required? Yes

Responsibility for the external audit and qualifications needed: The local environmental authorities (or municipalities) are responsible for inspection and certification. Auditors are mostly environmental officers or managers employed by the local authority.

Audit period: 3 years

Certification: A certificate of participation is awarded once the environmental audit has been successfully carried out by representatives of the local authority. Companies or administrations are certified when they fulfil the environmental requirements set by the programme for their specific sector.

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: **Not close**

For further information on the EMS, please contact:

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