

EMS Factsheet

Green Network



Overview

Origin and development

The Green Network is a regional network in Denmark promoting sustainability in companies. It is voluntary and mutually binding for the partners: public authorities and companies. It was founded in 1994 within a "Green City" competition in the Danish region Vejle promoting the greening of local businesses. In 2002 the focus was broadened to include sustainability. Today, more than 250 companies issue a statement in one or more of the areas: environment, social commitment, and health & safety. Green Network is also offered to private and public companies through the environmental networks (organized under Key2Green – each one operating in an area of several municipalities with only 1 municipality in Copenhagen). Each network offers a diploma and a flag as a sign of approved environmental reporting. The Green Network is also part of the Nordic Environment Network.

Objectives

Private companies and public sector partners work together in Green Network to achieve greater sustainability in the fields of environment, social commitment and occupational health and safety. The slogan of the EMS « Growing responsibility » makes Green Network's mission even clearer. It is a matter both of the members of Green Network taking on ever more social responsibility and also of Green Network developing more sustainable methods. The company chooses the manual or manuals they will use and commit themselves to continuous improvements within the chosen work area: social commitment, environment or occupational health and safety, or a combination of these.

Implementation structure

Green Network is a regional network that involves several municipalities and private companies. The chairman of Green Network has to come from the private side. Green Network has different types of membership options adapted to the requirements of companies.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

The Green Network is part of the Nordic Environment Network to promote regional cooperation and common strategies for non –formal EMS

Implementing institution

The municipalities of Fredericia, Horsens, Kolding, Middelfart, and Vejle and the Region of Vejle and private members of the network in Denmark

Available since

1994

Geographical scope

Denmark and Czech Republic (planned)

Target group

Manufacturing, service companies, farms, fish farms, utilities, public companies (hospitals, educational institutions ...) etc

Size of targeted companies

All

Total number of certifications

1013

Number of participants in the process of certification

270

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commitment of top management: Yes, required at the beginning of the process.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental review: Direct environmental aspects must be systematically documented in a green account, and some indirect environmental aspects also need to be taken into account.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental policy or guidelines: The environmental policy should address the companies' chosen environmental objectives and environmental management programme.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proof of legal compliance: The local authority has to certify that the company does not face any environmental legal claims.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objectives and environmental management programme: Companies choose the manual or manuals they will use and commit themselves to continuous improvements within the chosen work area: social commitment, environment or occupational health and safety, or a combination of these. The environmental action plan contains responsibilities, estimated costs, deadlines, necessary technologies etc.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Definition of organisational structure at company level: Organisational structure/responsibilities are defined and documented.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training and education requirements: Some training and guidance from Green Network is offered to companies but their implementation is not a requirement.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication (internal and external): Defined procedures for internal and external communications are required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentation requirements: The EMS requires an environmental statement that demonstrates the companies' environmental objectives and plan of action.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal follow-up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: Internal audits are required for checking and corrective action. Close dialogue between the company and key staff from the municipality or regional offices, sector experts or other specialists (regional administration) is to assist in reaching targets. Continuous improvement is required and the scheme can therefore act as a stimulus 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 report is required. Members can choose in which area they report: environment, social responsibility, or health and safety. The environmental report is evaluated by a Green Network project group. If it is approved, the company is rewarded a diploma and a flag. In more than half the cases the report fulfills the demands of an EMAS statement.

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

External audit/certification

Is an external audit required for the criteria mentioned in the box above? No, the audit is carried out by Green Network experts, not by an independent body.

Responsibility for external audit and qualifications needed: Qualified Green Network experts determine whether companies have complied to required criteria.

Audit period: Every 3 years.

Certification: The Green Network diploma is valid for two years. It is renewed when a new statement is drawn up showing that the goals for the previous period have been achieved. New and more sustainable goals are set for the next period.

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**

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