

EU Ecolabel

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The EU Ecolabel is the premier European award for products and services which meet the highest environmental standards.

EU Ecolabel products deliver high performance and environmental quality, verified by a robust and independent certification process.

You can spot an EU Ecolabel product as it carries the flower logo – making it very simple for buyers and consumers to buy wisely in the green marketplace.

This UK Guide for Applicants will help you understand:

- what the EU Ecolabel is and how it works;
- what products and services it covers;
- how you can check if your product is eligible;
- how the EU Ecolabel can help your business;
- how to apply for the EU Ecolabel in the UK.

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About the EU Ecolabel

Many products claim to be 'environmentally friendly' but how do you know for certain?

The EU Ecolabel logo on a product or service guarantees that it is less damaging to the environment because it has met strict environmental criteria agreed by every EU member state.

EU Ecolabel products really are kinder to the environment. The EU Ecolabel environmental criteria look at every stage of a product's lifecycle – from manufacturing through to use and disposal.

Applying for the EU Ecolabel is entirely voluntary. It is encouraging businesses to develop greener products and helping buyers and consumers to identify them.

Each EU member state appoints a Competent Body to take on the responsibility of developing, maintaining and delivering the EU Ecolabel.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the UK's Competent Body.

You can find out more about:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>

Defra also provides free help and advice on the EU Ecolabel to businesses and consumers through a Helpline provided by UK Ecolabel Delivery:

UK Ecolabel Delivery
Tel: 01355 593930
Email: ecolabel@tuvnel.com

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What products are covered by the EU Ecolabel?

The European EU Ecolabel covers an increasing number of products and services.

Beauty Care

- Soaps, shampoos and hair conditioners

Cleaning

- All purpose cleaners and sanitary cleaners
- Detergents for dishwashers
- Industrial and institutional automatic dishwasher detergents
- Hand dishwashing detergents
- Laundry detergents
- Industrial and institutional laundry detergents

Clothing

- Textile products
- Footwear

Do-it-yourself

- Paints and varnishes

Electronic equipment

- Imaging equipment
- Personal computers
- Notebook computers
- Televisions

Coverings

- Wooden floor coverings
- Textile floor coverings
- Hard coverings

Furniture

- Wooden furniture

Gardening

- Growing media and soil improvers

Household appliances

- Light sources

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- Heat pumps

Lubricants

- Lubricants

Other Household items

- Bed Mattresses
- Sanitary Tapware
- Flushing Toilets and Urinals

Paper Products

- Copying and graphic paper
- Tissue paper
- Newsprint paper
- Printed Paper

Services

- Campsite services
- Tourist accommodation service

Each of the product groups has its own specific environmental criteria and application form, which an applicant needs to read and follow.

Environmental criteria for new product groups are being developed all the time.

Full details are published on the EU Ecolabel website [here](#).

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Why should my product or service carry the EU Ecolabel?

The EU Ecolabel is *credible*.

EU Ecolabel products deliver high performance and environmental quality, verified by a robust and independent certification process. A product will not be awarded the EU Ecolabel for vague environmental claims.

The EU Ecolabel is *comprehensive*.

The EU Ecolabel covers all the main environmental impacts of a product, throughout its whole life right down to disposal. The environmental criteria that an EU Ecolabel product must meet are developed by a multi-stakeholder approach.

The EU Ecolabel is *wide-ranging*.

The EU Ecolabel logo is increasingly known in the marketplace. 1,000s of EU Ecolabel products are available, with the number growing every month.

The EU Ecolabel is *influential*.

The EU Ecolabel covers the whole of Europe. The scheme is backed by the European Commission and all EU member states. It influences the behaviour of millions of consumers across Europe.

If you are a *manufacturer or a retailer*, the EU Ecolabel will give your products a competitive advantage in the growing green marketplace.

If you are a *shopper*, the EU Ecolabel is a trustworthy indication of first class, environmentally friendly products and services – that work.

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Case Study: Clover Chemicals Ltd



Licence Holder: Clover Chemicals Ltd
www.cloverchemicals.com

Product Group: All Purpose Cleaners

Licence Number: UK1020/015

Since its inception in 1990, Clover Chemicals' consideration for the environment has always been a major factor in the development of its products.

Des Eustace, Managing Director, explains: 'We strongly believe in acting to reduce the carbon footprint of products throughout their whole life cycle – and the EU Ecolabel environmental criteria look at every stage of a product's life cycle.'

The EU Ecolabel is a recognised, independent, Europe wide standard with well documented evaluation processes. This was important for Clover Chemicals as we wished to be part of a credible system.

The application process is not easy. However the EU Ecolabel Helpdesk was very helpful and clarified for us what parameters to use.

Having the EU Ecolabel certainly enhances the respect that is given to our products in the market place.'

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What should I consider before applying for the EU Ecolabel in the UK?

Is the EU Ecolabel right for my product?

Consider what issues are important to your customers. Is there a trend towards buying greener products?

The EU Ecolabel is a European label and it will offer the greatest advantages to products which have a significant market across Europe.

Sustainable Procurement

If you sell products to the public sector, consider the impact that Sustainable Procurement is having. Buyers are looking to buy products and services that achieve value for money, but which also minimise the damage to the environment.

The Green Public Procurement toolkit published by the EU and the UK's Government Buying Standards are both linked closely to EU Ecolabel standards. For a buyer, the EU Ecolabel provides all the evidence required to demonstrate that the high Green Public Procurement Standards are being met.

Fees

There are a number of fees associated with applying for and maintaining an EU Ecolabel licence.

These are detailed in [Annex A](#) of this guidance.

Please read this Annex carefully to ensure that you are fully aware of the potential costs before you embark on applying for the EU Ecolabel.

Marketing

Consider your marketing strategy up front to get the best value out of having the EU Ecolabel – it will enhance your marketing strategy, but it's not a substitute for it.

Do you want it as part of a broader company strategy of

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making a positive green declaration?

Do you want it for public procurement purposes, where having the label may be more important than actively publicising it?

Timing

The environmental criteria for each product group are revised every few years – and existing EU Ecolabel holders have to re-apply when new, revised criteria come into force.

Consider the timing of your application. If you obtain the EU Ecolabel under criteria that are just about to be revised, you will be able to use the EU Ecolabel for only a short period before having to reapply under the revised criteria.

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Case Study: Disposables UK, West Yorkshire



Licence Holder: Disposables UK West Yorkshire
www.disposablesukgroup.co.uk

Product Group: Paper products

Licence Number: UK / 004 / 002

EU Ecolabel holders, Disposables UK, won a business award thanks to its accreditation.

It manufactures disposable paper products for the washroom and entered the Kirklees Council Business awards in the Green category.

Judged outright winner against tough competition, Emma Wood, Marketing Manager at Disposables UK said: 'We are absolutely delighted to have our achievements in gaining the EU Ecolabel recognised.'

Anyone who has worked towards gaining the accreditation on their products or services will know that it isn't a walk in the park and nor should it be. However to have the blood, sweat and tears acknowledged with an award is amazing.'

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The Application and Assessment Process in the UK

Read the following step-by-step guide on how to apply for the EU Ecolabel in the UK.

Remember that if you have any queries, you should contact UK Ecolabel Delivery on:

- Tel: 01355 593930
- Email: ecolabel@tuvnel.com

Step 1

Is my product eligible?

- Find out if your product or service is covered by the EU Ecolabel scheme by visiting the EU Ecolabel website [here](#).
- Select the product group you are interested in and read the current Criteria document that can be found on each product group's EU Ecolabel web page.
- Check that your specific type of product is actually covered by the scheme and whether your product looks like it meets the criteria.

Step 2

Am I eligible to apply?

- Manufacturers, importers, and service providers can all apply for the EU Ecolabel.
- Traders and retailers may also apply, but may only submit applications for products marketed under their own brand names.

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Step 3

Where do I apply?

- Apply to the EU member state where the product originates. This can be the country of manufacture or where the organisation headquarters are located
- If your product originates outside of the EU, you should apply to the EU member state where the product is (or is about to be) placed on sale
- All EU member states assess applications against the same criteria, but individual states have slightly different procedures and fee levels for handling applications.
- For contact details for all the member states visit [here](#).
- If you are applying to the UK, let UK Ecolabel Delivery know before you start the application process – ecolabel@tuvnel.com

Step 4

How do I apply?

Stage 1 – Online Application Process

- You need to submit basic information about your application using the online application tool, Ecat.
- First, create an account by registering with Ecat [here](#).
- If you need help to navigate around Ecat, an applicant user manual can be found [here](#).
- Once you have submitted your application information online, UK Ecolabel Delivery will receive an automatic email (assuming you are applying into the UK).
- If you have any problems or questions with the Ecat system, please contact us at ecolabel@tuvnel.com

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Stage 2 – Manual Application Process

- Obtain a copy of the Application Pack associated with the product group you are applying for. You can find this by accessing details about the product group [here](#).
- Contact UK Ecolabel Delivery to check that you have the most up-to-date information about the product group.
- Read through the Criteria document and Application Pack to gain a good understanding of what is being asked of you.
- When you decide to apply for the EU Ecolabel, let UK Ecolabel Delivery know by emailing ecolabel@tuvnel.com. We will be able to answer your queries about the application process
- You then start to prepare your full application and dossier of information.
- Email any specific technical questions you may have to ecolabel@tuvnel.com

Step 5

Compliance declarations, testing and verification

- Each product group criteria specifies what compliance declarations, testing and verification are required. The criteria will state:
 - If tests of any kind are required;
 - If a producer's or supplier's declaration of compliance or test results are required;
 - If you need a test centre to independently verify test results.
- Tests can be carried out in-house, if you can provide all the necessary information yourself and can verify compliance with the criteria.
- If you are not able to undertake the necessary tests yourself, you will need to arrange for them to be carried out by an independent assessor or by

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another laboratory.

- Where **independent verification** of test results is needed, the results must be independently checked by a test laboratory certified as meeting the criteria. You will need to find and liaise with an appropriate test centre.
- It is essential that test data is accurate and can be substantiated. UK Ecolabel Delivery is authorised to make further checks about data submitted and regularly does so.
- For some product groups, applicants are required to declare the exact formulation and percentages of their products. All this information is treated in strict confidence.
- All test and independent verification costs must be met by the applicant. You should factor in these costs before you decide to apply.

Step 6

The Dossier

- You will need to provide a detailed Dossier containing all the test reports and verifications needed to show how your product has met the technical criteria.
- You should cross reference the material in the Dossier with the answers in your application form. This will help clearly identify how you are complying with the criteria.
- The Dossier should also include an illustration of the packaging and label to be used if you attain the EU Ecolabel. Each product group criteria describes mandatory information that needs to go on the packaging and label of an EU Ecolabel product.
- If the application is successful, you will be expected to retain a copy of the Dossier and keep it up to date for the duration of your EU Ecolabel licence.

Step 7

Completing the Application Form

- The next step is to complete and sign the Application Form. Remember to cross reference your Application Form with the information in your Dossier.

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- You should email **one copies** of everything (the Application Form and the Dossier) to ecolabel@tuvnel.com or send **two copies** by post to UK Ecolabel Delivery.

UK Ecolabel Delivery
c/o NEL - TUV SUD Ltd
Scottish Enterprise Technology Park
East Kilbride
Glasgow G75 0QF

- Please read [Annex A](#) for details of the application fees that will apply.

Step 8

The Assessment

- UK Ecolabel Delivery checks that your application, the dossier and all the test and independent verification have been provided and are complete.
- Your application and dossier are assessed to see whether they comply with the product group criteria.
- You will be contacted with queries and requests for clarification.
- Your assessor may test the product or arrange a site visit to your premises or the premises of any part of the production that you sub-contract. Your assessor may also consult with other member states where the product originates in the same form.
- The assessment process should take four to six weeks. However your assessor may need to follow up queries about your application, so cannot guarantee that your application will be processed by a set deadline.
- Applications for Tourist Accommodation, Camping Site Services and Copying & Graphic Paper will take longer, as inspection visits need to be undertaken.
- Please read [Annex A](#) for details of the inspection fees that will apply.

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Step 9

Awarding the licence

- If your application is successful, you will be given a licence number(s). As an example, UK / 007 / 024 consists of:
 - UK – the member state awarding the licence;
 - 007 – the unique product group code (007 is the code for indoor paints and varnishes);
 - 024 – the application number, which identifies you as the applicant.
- You will receive a contract for licence to use the EU Ecolabel. It will confirm the EU Ecolabel licence number(s) and the terms of use. The Standard Contract can be seen [here](#).
- As a licensee you can display the logo on your licensed product and use it in advertisements, provided that the conditions in the Standard Contract are observed.
- Your product or service will be included in the list of EU Ecolabel products on the Commission's Ecatt website - <http://ec.europa.eu/ecatt/>.

Step 10

Maintaining your licence

- **Annual fees**

At the end of each calendar year, UK Ecolabel Delivery will invoice you for the annual licence fee.

- **Compliance Monitoring**

UK Ecolabel Delivery may undertake monitoring of your EU Ecolabel product or service to ensure its continued compliance with the product group criteria and the contract. Inspection visits may be carried out and additional documentation for compliance assessment may be requested.

Please see [Annex A](#) for details of the inspection fees that may apply.

- **Expiry of product group criteria**

Contracts to use the EU Ecolabel expire when the criteria for that product group expires. If the criteria are renewed without alteration, the contract

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is automatically renewed.

When the criteria for a product group are revised, licensees can renew their contracts by completing an application form and dossier for the new criteria to show that the product complies with the new criteria. There is no application fee charged for this.

- **Contract modifications**

Products or services already covered by the EU Ecolabel licence may be modified, but must remain in compliance with the criteria. Initially, you should write to UK EU Ecolabel Delivery with:

- Details of the products or services affected;
- A description of how the modification affects the products or services;

We will then let you know what information you need to provide in order for us to assess the modification. A new application may not be needed if you are requesting a minor change, which does not affect compliance with the criteria.

Please see [Annex A](#) for details of the fees associated with contract modifications.

- **Withdrawal or expiry of the EU Ecolabel**

You may terminate your EU Ecolabel contract at any point by giving UK Ecolabel Delivery three months' notice by registered letter. Equally, your licence can be suspended or withdrawn if you breach the terms of the contract.

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Next Step



The EU Ecolabel makes a difference to the environment, and can make a difference to your business in all kinds of ways.

It can differentiate your products or services from those of your competitors, making your products stand out in the marketplace. It will enhance your company's image.

The EU Ecolabel is yours to make the most of.

If you are interested in applying or have any questions, contact UK Ecolabel Delivery.

Tel: 01355 593930

Email: ecolabel@tuvnel.com

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Annex A - Fees

Applicants need to take into consideration the fees associated with the EU Ecolabel, before deciding to apply.

1. Application Fee
2. Annual Licence Fee
3. On-site Inspection Fee
4. Contract Modification Fee
5. Expiry of product group criteria

1. Application Fee

All applicants are required to pay an application fee.

- Upon receipt of an application, UK Ecolabel Delivery will contact the applicant to confirm the application fee due.
- An invoice for the confirmed amount will then be issued by UK Ecolabel Delivery and receipt of payment will be expected within 30 days of the invoice date.

How the Application Fee is calculated

Your application fee depends upon the size of your company. Please see the fees that apply in the following table:

Micro Organisation	£250
SME/Operators in Developing Countries	£350
Large	£500

- One application fee will be charged if you are submitting one or several applications (at the same time) as long as they are all for the same product group.
- If you are submitting several applications (at the same time) for different product groups then you will be charged an application fee per product group.

Example: 1 application for All Purpose Cleaners plus 2 applications for Laundry Detergents would mean that you are charged 2 application fees.

- Please note that if you submit further applications at a later

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date, you will incur additional application fees.

Available discount

- A 30% discount for applicants registered under EMAS or a 15% discount for those certified under ISO 14001 will be applied to the above application fees. This is subject to conditions set out in [Commission Regulation No 782/2013](#) amending Annex III of [Ecolabel Regulation \(EC\) No 66/2010](#).
- Reductions are not cumulative. Therefore where both EMAS and ISO 14001 conditions are met, only the EMAS 30% discount will apply.

Micro and SME organisations

Micro and SME organisations are defined as follows:

- An **SME** is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 Million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 Million.
- A **microenterprise** is defined as an enterprise which employs fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total does not exceed EUR 2 Million.

For more information on the definition of SMEs and micro organisations read the [Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC](#).

2. Annual Licence Fee

All licence holders are required to pay an annual licence fee, in arrears.

- In January, UK Ecolabel Delivery will invoice all licence holders for the annual licence fee covering the previous calendar year.

How the annual licence fee is calculated?

Your annual licence fee depends upon the size of your company. Please see the fees that apply in the following table:

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Micro Organisation	£250
SME/Operators in Developing Countries	£500
Large	£1,000

- The annual fee will be calculated on a pro rata basis, based on the date the licence was awarded.
- The annual licence fee is charged per applicant.
- Please remember that if you fail to pay your annual licence fee your Ecolabel licence will be terminated.

3. On-site Inspection Fee

The EU Ecolabel regulation requires that EU Competent Bodies verify the conditions under which the EU Ecolabel is used and 'prohibit the use of the EU Ecolabel where the conditions have not been complied with'.

In line with this, where it is deemed necessary and appropriate, UK Ecolabel Delivery will conduct an on-site inspection of new applicants and existing licence holders.

When might an on-site inspection be undertaken?

- **At application** to verify compliance with the criteria.

UK Ecolabel Delivery will make a decision on whether to undertake an on-site inspection by taking into account a number of factors, such as the quality of the application dossier, its completeness and the nature of any queries raised during the assessment process.

If an applicant is based outside of the European Economic Area, an on-site inspection **will** be carried out.

- **Mandatory on-site inspections** at the application stage are required for the following product groups:
 - Tourist Accommodation
 - Camp Site Services
 - Copying & Graphic Paper.
- **As part of regular market surveillance** to ensure on-going compliance with the product group criteria.

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UK Ecolabel Delivery will make a decision on whether to undertake an on-site inspection by taking into account a number of factors, such as the complexity of the product group criteria, any received market intelligence, or if a serious concern is raised during an annual market surveillance exercise.

If a licence holder is based outside of the European Economic Area an on-site inspection **will** be carried out at least once during the life of the licence holder's contract.

- In response to a complaint when it is necessary in order to ascertain the facts.

Costs

- The cost of an on-site inspection will be charged to applicants and licence holders. It will involve the time and expenses incurred by UK Ecolabel Delivery, which will carry out the inspection.
- **Inspections carried out in the UK will cost in the region of £1,650+VAT.** The cost for on-site inspections outside of the UK is likely to be higher.
- Mandatory on-site inspections at application stage for the following product groups are not charged:
 - Tourist Accommodation
 - Camp Site Services.
- Prior to undertaking any inspection, UK Ecolabel Delivery will provide the applicant or licence holder with a fixed price for the on-site inspection.

An invoice for the confirmed amount will then be issued by UK Ecolabel Delivery and receipt of payment will be expected within 30 days of the invoice date. The inspection will not take place until the invoice has been paid.

Please remember that if we decide that an on-site inspection is required, and you fail to pay the relevant inspection fee, you run the risk of your application failing the assessment process or your Ecolabel licence being terminated.

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- *If you are considering applying into the EU Ecolabel, it is essential that you factor in the potential costs associated with on-site inspections.*

4. Contract Modification Fee

Products already covered by the Ecolabel licence may be modified, but must remain in compliance with the criteria.

- An application fee will be charged if the contract modification requires the licence holder to submit a new application.
- UK Ecolabel Delivery will make a decision on whether the modification requested requires a new application to be submitted by taking into account a number of factors, such as the complexity of the modification required.

5. Expiry of product group criteria

Ecolabel licence holder contracts expire when the criteria for that product group expires.

- When the criteria for a product group are revised, licensees can renew their contracts by completing an application form and dossier for the new criteria to show that the product complies with the new criteria.
- There is no application fee charged for this.

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Annex B – FAQs

[Who is responsible for the EU Ecolabel?](#)

[Who runs the EU Ecolabelling scheme in the UK?](#)

[How long has the EU Ecolabel scheme been running?](#)

[How are EU Ecolabelling criteria set?](#)

[Where does the EU Ecolabel scheme operate?](#)

[Why doesn't the UK have a national EU Ecolabelling scheme?](#)

[Why don't more products carry the Flower?](#)

[Does the label really make any difference to the environment?](#)

[Is the EU Ecolabel a threat to industry?](#)

[Is the EU Ecolabel a barrier to trade?](#)

[What is the UK approach to criteria development?](#)

[How are the product groups chosen?](#)

Who is responsible for the EU Ecolabel?

The European Commission is responsible for establishing and revising the criteria. The EU Ecolabel comes under the work of the Environment Directorate-General as part of a larger, more general objective of the Commission to promote sustainable consumption and production within the EU. Each member state is required to designate a Competent Body to administer the scheme at a national level. The Competent Bodies, which must be independent and neutral, receive applications for the award of the EU Ecolabel and decide whether the products meet the set criteria. They also have a role in promoting awareness of the scheme amongst producers and consumers.

Who runs the EU Ecolabelling scheme in the UK?

In the UK, the official UK EU Ecolabel Competent Body is Defra, which runs the scheme with the assistance of UK EU Ecolabel Delivery (a partnership of TÜV SÜD Ltd and Oakdene Hollins Ltd). Defra strongly supports the aims of the EU Ecolabel, and plays an active part in product group development and planning the label's future development.

How long has the EU Ecolabel scheme been running?

The EU Ecolabel was established in 1992 in response to calls for a credible environmental labelling scheme that would be recognised throughout the EU.

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How are EU Ecolabelling criteria set?

Criteria are determined on the basis of life cycle assessment (LCA) of the product group. The "cradle to grave" approach of the scheme is fundamental to its objectives, identifying when the most harmful impacts to the environment occur, from the extraction of raw materials right through to product use and disposal. Areas of impact accounted for are use of natural resources and energy, emissions to air, water and soil, production processes, disposal of waste, recycling and re-use, noise pollution and effects on ecosystems. Consultation with all relevant interested parties is undertaken during the process - non-governmental stakeholders such as the European Environmental Bureau, trade associations, and consumer bodies. Criteria have to be agreed by member states (subject to a qualified majority vote) and are usually valid for at least three years, after which they are revised to take into account market changes and technological advances.

Where does the EU Ecolabel scheme operate?

It operates in the all member states of the EU, as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. This allows manufacturers to produce goods to a common specification, making the scheme consistent and supportive of the single market. Products bearing the EU Ecolabel have the potential to reach a consumer base of more than 450 million people.

Why doesn't the UK have a national Ecolabelling scheme?

The UK view is that setting up a new national Ecolabelling scheme would not be productive or helpful. All Ecolabelling schemes take time to make their mark, and are expensive to set up and run. National schemes inevitably have limited potential for growth, and compete with other labels to some extent. The UK focuses instead on giving strong support to the European scheme, to which it has been committed from the start - the UK was the first country in Europe to issue the Flower label to a product. It plays a full and active part in developing the scheme at European level. For maximum effectiveness, Ecolabelling schemes need to be properly integrated with the policy context on a range of issues such as green procurement. This is the case with the EU Ecolabel which is fully embedded into Defra's Sustainable Procurement activity, as part of its cohesive package of activity on sustainable procurement issues.

Why don't more products carry the Flower?

Hundreds of products across Europe now carry the label, with licensees ranging from major international companies to small and medium sized enterprises. The label continues to be a strong marketing tool for businesses wanting to show that their products meet high environmental standards,

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particularly those selling in Europe, and as a signpost for consumers looking for green products.

Does the label really make any difference to the environment?

The EU Ecolabel has had wider influence and success in greening product performance, because the criteria attract considerable interest from industry. However the label does not currently operate in areas where environmental impacts of products are greatest. According to a 2006 Commission report on the Environmental Impact of Products, three areas - food and drink, private transport, and housing - together account for 70-80 per cent of environmental product impacts of private consumption. There is an ongoing debate about whether such products should be EU Ecolabelled. Would EU Ecolabelling "high impact" products give the wrong environmental impression? Or would EU Ecolabelling 'cleaner' products in these areas have a positive effect in encouraging environmental improvement? It may be that the Energy Label and other similar labels are better placed to make an impact in these tough areas, being gauge-type labels rather than award-types.

Is the EU Ecolabel a threat to industry?

The EU Ecolabel is intended to help industry to market its products if it wants to prove that its green claims are soundly based. The UK makes sure that industry is fully involved as criteria are developed. We aim to ensure that the criteria are based on sound science and are genuinely attainable by the market.

Is the EU Ecolabel a barrier to trade?

The EU Ecolabel does not have the critical mass to act in this negative way, because it is a voluntary scheme. It is open to a wide range of applicants, and the criteria development process is completely transparent. The scheme regularly adapts to meet changing needs to ensure that the EU Ecolabel remains fresh and relevant.

What is the UK approach to criteria development?

The principles underlying our approach to the scheme are credibility, fairness and simplicity.

- In participating in the criteria setting process, Defra aims to ensure that the criteria adopted are based on sound science, that they represent a good environmental standard and that they can actually be achieved by a fair proportion of the market.

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- Defra encourages interested parties to participate in the criteria development process and to feed their comments directly into the EU-level process: Defra takes a balanced view about the proposed criteria for each product group and cannot act as a spokesperson for any one interest in the supply chain.
- Our aim is to make the process of obtaining the label as straightforward as possible for applicants - however, as with all 'quality assurance' schemes, a certain level of detail is unavoidable.

How are the product groups chosen?

Product groups are developed as the result of suggestions from interested parties. Amongst the stakeholders who influence these decisions are the national Competent Bodies, European industry representatives, environmental groups, consumer organisations, trade unions and retailers.

- The suitability of the product group to the EU Ecolabel then has to be assessed by a feasibility study with the general aim of deciding whether the label will work for the product group. Market data, surveys, stakeholder consultation, and assessment of performance standards are all undertaken at this stage. If a decision is taken to proceed, a life cycle considerations study is commissioned to develop specific ecological criteria for that product group.

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Annex C – EU Ecolabel Licences

The following list provides you with details of the current UK Licence Holders.

Licencee	EU Ecolabel Product Group
Aquados Ltd	Detergents for dishwashers; Laundry detergents
Bioil Ltd	Lubricants
Bute Fabrics Ltd	Textiles
Camira Fabrics Ltd	Textiles
Chela Ltd	All Purpose Cleaners
Clover Chemicals Ltd	All purpose cleaners; Hand Dishwashing Detergents
Delphis Eco	All purpose cleaners
Derrygonnelly Field Studies Centre	Tourist accommodation
Disposables UK Group	Tissue paper
Earthborn Paints - a division of Brush Mate	Paints and varnishes
Easy-Do Products Ltd	Textiles
FIS Chemicals Ltd	All-purpose cleaners
GOJO Industries Europe Ltd	Soaps, shampoos and hair conditioners
GS Caltex Corporation	Lubricants
Instyle Contract Textiles Pty Ltd	Textiles
Jiangsu Danmao Textile Co Ltd	Textiles
Kimberly Clark	Tissue paper

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Licencee	EU Ecolabel Product Group
Lubrizol Limited	Lubricants
McBride plc	All purpose cleaners; Hand dishwashing detergents
Mitsubishi Electric	Heat Pumps
PPG Architectural Coatings UK Limited	Paints and Varnishes
Premiere Products	All purpose cleaners; Hand dishwashing detergents; Soaps, shampoos and hair conditioners; Laundry Detergents
Rentokil-Initial	Soaps, shampoos and hair conditioners
Rushin House Caravan Park	Camp sites
Selden Research Ltd	All purpose cleaners; Hand dishwashing detergents; Soaps, shampoos and hair conditioners
Shell Global Solutions (UK)	Lubricants
The Merino Company	Textiles
Tianyu Wool Industry Co Ltd	Textiles
Wooltex UK Ltd	Textiles
YHA Blaxhall	Tourist Accommodation
YHA Eskdale	Tourist Accommodation
YHA Idwal Cottage	Tourist Accommodation
YHA Langdon Beck	Tourist Accommodation
YHA Lockton	Tourist Accommodation
YHA Oxford Street	Tourist Accommodation
YHA Port Eynon	Tourist Accommodation

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Licencee	EU Ecolabel Product Group
YHA Youlgreave	Tourist Accommodation
ZheJiang New Chuwa Wool Co Ltd	Textiles
ZheJiang Xinao Textiles INC	Textiles

Please note that some UK EU Ecolabel Licence Holders may wish to remain anonymous for commercial reasons

This information is out of date and has been withdrawn.
You can search for the current guidance on GOV.UK.