

EMS Factsheet

Environment Diploma

Göteborg



Overview

Origin and development

The Göteborg Environment Diploma is a programme that provides smaller companies easy access to an EMS. In order to emphasise the importance of training and knowledge-building for sustainability issues, the management approach was named the Environment Diploma. The scheme was created by the Environment Administration of the City of Göteborg in 1995. Since then, more than 1000 companies have obtained the Diploma and the programme has spread to 26 other Swedish municipalities. The Environment Diploma scheme is a member of the Swedish Environment Base, an NGO maintaining and developing criteria for non-formal EMS. Environment Diploma is also part of the Nordic Environment Network together with Eco- Lighthouse in Norway, Key2Green in Denmark and EcoCompass in Helsinki, Finland to develop common strategies for non-formal EMS.

Objectives

The aim of this scheme is to ensure that organisations establish an environmental management system and meet the standards that are set. The criteria of the EMS correspond to most ISO 14001 and/or EMAS requirements.

Implementation structure

As the implementing institution, the Göteborg Environment Administration provides compulsory training for companies wanting to implement the scheme. Local environmental authorities and to some extent private consulting companies, are also involved in offering assistance to companies in meeting the audit criteria. In Göteborg, 12 environmental consultants were accredited by the Environment Administration to provide the required environmental training.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

Environmental Diploma is part of the Nordic Environment Network to promote regional cooperation and common strategies for non – formal EMS. Focus on training and knowledge-building.

Implementing institution

The City of Göteborg Environment Administration & the Göteborg Region Association of Local Authorities, Sweden

Available since

1995

Geographical scope

Sweden

Target group

All sectors including municipal offices

Size of targeted companies

SMEs

Total number of certifications

1041

Number of participants in the process of certification

1400

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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental review: Yes, required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental policy or guidelines: Yes, required.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proof of legal compliance: Required during the initial review. In addition, the Environmental Administration checks the legal compliance of the company before conducting the audit.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Objectives and environmental management programme: A company's environmental management programme requires the definition of environmental measures as well as an action plan.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Definition of organisational structure at company level: An environmental manager is appointed who is responsible for all environmental issues and acts diploma coordinator.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Training and education requirements: A training course is organised for employees on issues ranging from the implementation of the EMS, local environmental quality, environmental issues in SMEs, and ecolabelling. Guidelines on the initial review, a manual (containing an explanation of the checklist measures), examples of environmental policy documents, and advice on the structure of the EMS are also provided.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Communication (internal and external): The environmental manager acts as a contact person for the EMS work. The company must provide employees with environmental information on a regular basis. There are also requirements regarding the communication with suppliers.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Documentation requirements: Documentation requirements include an environmental policy, environmental analysis, environmental goals and programme, purchasing routines, an inventory list of chemicals, and an inventory list of resources.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Internal follow-up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: Companies must present measurable targets in their action plan. Internal audits are completed annually. Continuous improvement is required and the EMS can therefore act as a stimulus for innovation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Management review: Yes, required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental report/ statement or similar publication by the participants of the EMS: An environmental report is required, however does not include all the requirements relating to an environmental report under EMAS.
<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? Yes

Responsibility for external audit and qualifications needed: The Environment Administration is responsible for selecting and accrediting auditors.

External audit periodicity: Yearly (2-3 years for some companies)

Certification: The Diploma serves as the official recognition that the company was successfully audited.

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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