

EMS Factsheet ECOPROFIT



Overview

Origin and development

ECOPROFIT (ECOLOGICAL PROject For Integrated Environmental Technology) was developed by the Environment Department of the City of Graz, Austria in 1991 in collaboration with the Technical University of Graz to create a win-win model that would benefit companies and institutions economically in cooperation with local authorities and to improve the local environment. In 1996 the Cleaner Production Center (CPC) was set up with the objective to establish the ECOPROFIT scheme worldwide. The ECOPROFIT programme is considered as a stepping stone to a formal EMS such as EMAS and ISO14001.

ECOPROFIT is focused on the practical and solution-orientated implementation of improvement measures. It is open to companies/institutions of all sizes and branches. The programme is based on two steps: The Basic programme, which consists of a workshop series as well as individual consultations of at least 5 days per company during which an implementation programme is developed. This is followed by the Club programme where the cooperation between participating companies, consultants, and local authorities is the focus in order to share knowledge and benefit from synergies and to ensure continuous development and the implementation of new measures.

Objectives

Through the use of integrated environmental technologies, companies that implement ECOPROFIT will benefit from cost savings. At the same time the implemented measures will lead to an improvement of the local environment. All three dimensions of sustainability are taken into account through environmental, social, and economic objectives.

Implementation structure:

CPC Austria is the international certification and development centre with headquarter in Graz/Austria. Within the context of the "ECOPROFIT Academy", CPC Austria trains consultants and members of local authorities on the ECOPROFIT method.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic

Focus on the use of integrated environmental technologies

Implementing institution

CPC Austria GmbH, a public-private partnership

Available since

1991

Geographical scope

Global: 19 states on 4 continents, currently mostly Austria and Germany

Target group

Companies of all sectors and institutions (schools, hospitals, universities)

Size of targeted companies

Originally SMEs but open to all

Total number of certifications

400 certified companies in Austria
3000 in Germany
200 in other countries

Current annual certifications

2000

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:** Strong network of companies and consultants

Barriers

- EMS not widely recognised
- High implementing costs
- Little similarities to EMAS or ISO 14001
- Perceived complications/unattainability
- Other:** n/a

Yes

No

The EMS in detail

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commitment of top management: Required
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental review: Direct environmental impacts such as energy, waste, water/effluents, and hazardous substances are taken into account. Indirect environmental impacts are not always addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental policy or guidelines: Required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of legal compliance: Required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Objectives and environmental management programme: An environmental management programme is defined together with the consultant. Implementation deadlines are set but quantified targets are voluntary. At least one measure must be implemented for successful participation.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Definition of organisational structure at company level: Someone responsible for implementing ECOPROFIT must be assigned, as well as appointments of additional people to be in charge of specific environmental issues. This incorporates the environmental team, which has to be set up.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training and education requirements: Company representatives are trained at the workshop series and during the individual consultation. Beyond that there are no other training or education requirements.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication (internal and external): The environmental policy must be explained to all employees.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documentation requirements: An environmental report is required (although not beyond what is legally required).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Internal follow-up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: In the ECOPROFIT Club programme, continuous improvement and the implementation of new measures are encouraged but this is not required. The influence on innovation of the scheme can therefore be regarded as limited.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Management review: Not required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental report/ statement or similar publication by the participants of the EMS: Required.

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: Successful implementation of measures is evaluated by a commission consisting of the contracting authority, economic and scientific representatives, and CPC Austria. Auditors need to have taken part in an ECOPROFIT methodology workshop.

Audit period: Annually

Certification: Following a successful audit by the commission, the ECOPROFIT certification is awarded by political and economic authorities and representatives.

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: **Close**

For further information on the EMS, please contact:

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