Summary Brochure
From ECOCAMPING to EMAS

Benefits of a step-up from ECOCAMPING to EMAS

A step up from Ecocamping to EMAS can provide organisations with significant additional benefits. The two major benefits in the case of Ecocamping are increased legal security and an increased external recognition, since EMAS is better known than Ecocamping on a European scale. In case that the organisation is working internationally or has an international client base, the fact that EMAS is recognised all over Europe can lead to important additional benefits. Finally, EMAS offers the advantage of being legally recognised through a European Council Regulation and certified organisations are listed in a public register.

Introduction

Origin and development
ECOCAMPING is an EMS that has been specifically developed for campsites. It was established in 1999 with 20 campsites from the Bodensee and the Lago Maggiore. Over a two-year period, the EU supported the development of a comprehensive EMS based on EMAS and adapted to the needs of campsites. To broaden the scope of the initiative, the ECOCAMPING association was founded by four campsite associations and four environmental organisations in 2002. Currently, 193 camp sites in 4 countries are certified under ECOCAMPING.

The national associations of the camping industry are the initiators, as well as responsible for the implementation of an ECOCAMPING programme. The overall implementing organisation is ECOCAMPING e.V. Close contact is maintained with local administrations and certain departments of the European Commission. ECOCAMPING is actively involved in the development of the European Ecolabel for campsites.

Objectives
The overall objective of ECOCAMPING is to harmonise the environmental, economic, and quality aspects of campsites. Further objectives include the qualification of campsite managers and their employees, as well as an improved image and acceptance of the camping industry by public authorities. ECOCAMPING supports individual campsites and the campsite sector as a whole in improving its economic success. All stakeholders are taken into account including guests, employees, neighbours, administrations and the company itself. Quality and security management are integrated parts of the environmental management system.

Closeness to EMAS

ECOCAMPING has been developed based on the EMAS criteria and is actively supporting its participants in their EMAS registration. For those areas that are not directly part of the EMS such as internal audits, supporting material that is adapted to the needs of a campsite has been developed and is provided to the companies. ECOCAMPING project managers are providing advice to campsites that are interested in an EMAS registration and accompany them in their process towards EMAS. This can be seen as very positive. However, the fact that ECOCAMPING is not externally certified makes it difficult to define the exact level of fulfilment of the different criteria. In many cases companies are provided with the information to fulfil a certain criteria, but ECOCAMPING is not verifying the extent to which the different parts of the EMS are fulfilled.

From Ecocamping to EMAS: Additional Steps

Please note that this document provides an overview of additional steps that need to be taken by an organisation to 'step-up' from ECOCAMPING to EMAS. For further details on each requirement, please see the EMAS website on www.ec.europa.eu/environment/emas.

Step 1 - Setting the Baseline

- **Commitment of top management**
  Top management needs to review the EMS to fulfil EMAS requirements.
- **Environmental policy/guidelines**
  It is needed to make sure that the Environmental Policy is appropriate to environmental impacts and includes a commitment to continuous improvement and compliance with legal regulations to fulfil EMAS requirements.

Step 2 - Planning

- **Proof of legal compliance**
  Legal compliance and implementation of procedures that enable the organisation to constantly meet requirements are necessary to fulfil EMAS criteria.
- **Definition of objectives, targets and programmes**
  Ability to prove that EMS and audit procedures are based on the current environmental performance is necessary to fulfil EMAS requirements. Targets need to be quantified.

Step 3 - Implementation

- **Roles and responsibilities**
  Top management has to assure that required resources are made available to fulfil EMAS requirements.
- **Employee involvement**
  All EMAS criteria related to employee involvement need to be fulfilled to comply with EMAS requirements.
- **Training and awareness raising**
  It needs to be made sure that all employees causing significant environmental impacts receive appropriate training to comply with EMAS requirements.
- **Communication**
  Procedures for internal communication need to be established and a periodic revision of the environmental information needs to be guaranteed to comply with EMAS requirements.
- **Documentation**
  An environmental management handbook and records regarding planning, operation and control need to be included in the documentation to comply with EMAS requirements.
- **Control of documents and operational control**
  Procedures need to be established to control situations that might create significant environmental impacts, and procedures need to be communicated to suppliers where necessary to comply with EMAS requirements.

Step 4 - Check and Act

- **Checking and corrective action**
  Legal compliance needs to be evaluated and procedures for non- conformity and for taking corrective and preventive actions need to be established to comply with EMAS requirements
- **Control of records**
  All EMAS criteria related to the control of records need to be fulfilled to comply with EMAS requirements.
- **Internal audit**
  Regular internal audits need to be carried out by impartial auditors and results have to be communicated to management to fulfil EMAS requirements.
- **Management review**
  Management needs to review the entire EMS at planned intervals, including recommendations for improvement and need for changes to fulfil EMAS criteria.

Step 5 - External Recognition and Environmental Report

- **Third-party auditing and audit frequency**
  All EMAS criteria related to third party auditing need to be fulfilled to comply with EMAS requirements.
- **Environmental report/ statement**
  Environmental report needs to reference legal requirements and be verified and validated to comply with EMAS requirements.