EMS Factsheet
“Ecodynamic enterprise” Label

Overview

Origin and development
The Ecodynamic label was created in 1999 by Brussels Environment - IBGE, the Brussels Administration of the Environment and Energy. The EMS offers private companies and public administrations a systematic approach to lowering their impact on the environment. The “Ecodynamic enterprise” label is an official recognition of good environmental management practices by the Brussels Region. It encourages the introduction of an EMS, with a view towards eventual EMAS or ISO 14001 registrations. There are three levels depending on the initial level of environmental performance within the organisation. Each level is symbolised by stars. Applications are evaluated based on a large range of criteria. These criteria concern specific eco-management actions, quality of the environmental review, and the plan of actions established. The process begins with the signature of the “Entreprise écodynamique” charter. The company benefits from free assistance from designated consultancy firms. Within a period of two years, the company’s candidacy is presented to Brussels Environment IBGE for approval. The application includes an environmental review and a plan of action. Currently, 115 companies and public administrations have been accredited with the EMS label. All types of business are concerned, including non-profit organisations.

Objectives
The EMS aims to encourage companies in Brussels to voluntarily commit themselves to improving their environmental performance through a gradual and step-up approach.

Implementation structure
The implementing institution is Brussels Environment-IBGE. The label is awarded by a jury of 12 institutions composed of Brussels Environment-IBGE and other organisations.

EMS in brief

Key characteristic
The EMS consists of a labelling system that ranks the level of environmental performance obtained by the company from 1 to 3 stars

Implementing institution
Brussels Environment - IBGE

Available since
1999

Geographical scope
Brussels Region, BE

Target group
All companies in the private and the public sectors

Size of targeted companies
All companies

Total number of certifications
115

Number of participants in the process of certification
127

Most important drivers and barriers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers</th>
<th>Barriers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available marketing tools</td>
<td>EMS not widely recognised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost/resource savings</td>
<td>High implementation costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer/supplier demand</td>
<td>Little similarities to EMAS or ISO 14001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental benefits</td>
<td>Perceived complication/unattainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal security</td>
<td>Other: n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political support/financial incentives</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Proof of corporate social responsibility</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other: n/a</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

EMS Factsheets in preparation for “Guidelines for Transition from Non-formal EMS and ISO 14001 to EMAS”, developed by BIO Intelligence Service in cooperation with Adelphi Consult, June 2009
Commitment of top management: To launch the Ecodynamic label process, the Ecodynamic charter has to be signed by top management.

Environmental review: The company must take into account regulatory compliance, organisational aspects, and the environmental impacts of company activities concerning energy, waste, mobility, air, noise, nature & green spaces.

Environmental policy or guidelines: Companies must sign the Ecodynamic charter, which stipulates a commitment to fulfil environmental criteria and act according to the guidelines.

Proof of legal compliance: Proof of legal compliance must be presented in the environmental review and is taken into account during the accreditation process.

Objectives and environmental management programme: Requirement of an environmental management programme, with a plan of action that specifies priority areas defined on the basis of: The environmental analysis, measures to be taken, improvement targets, the organisational structure, responsibilities, and the procedures and resources necessary for the implementation.

Definition of organisational structure at company level: A responsible person is designated to implement the charter as well as to create a sense of responsibility among the workforce by increasing awareness of environmental issues.

Training and education requirements: Training is not a requirement; however the company is offered training workshops by the EMS.

Communication (internal and external): The EMS requires the development of procedures for communication of the organisation’s environmental activities both internally and externally.

Documentation requirements: The EMS requires that completed applications for approval include an environmental review and a plan of action.

Internal follow-up/ checking and corrective action/ continuous improvement: The EMS requires organisations to regularly and periodically evaluate progress on the environmental objectives of their environmental management programme. Continuous improvement is required and the EMS therefore acts as a stimulus for innovation. No internal audit is required.

Management review: After three years, the company must review its previous programme.

Environmental report/ statement or similar publication by the participants of the EMS: Not required.

External audit/certification:

Is an external audit required? Yes

Responsibility for the external audit and qualifications needed: The external audit is done free of charge by at least two independent and approved Brussels Environment civil servants.

Audit period: Three-yearly

Certification: The label is valid for three years. Accredited companies receive the right to affix the logo “Ecodynamic enterprise” on external communication sources.

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