

ECOPROFIT - Conditions



ECOPROFIT is a program for integrated environmental and climate management for companies and organisations with a strong focus on the application of established best practices.

For a first certification a foundation program has to be attended, afterwards the renewal of the certification requires participation in a follow up program.

Companies of all sizes and sectors can participate in Ecoprofit.

Ecoprofit is a registered international protected trademark of the City of Graz in Austria. In summer 2023, it was officially recognised by the European Commission as a pre-stage of the European environmental management system EMAS, fulfilling 50% of the EMAS criteria.

The following quality criteria apply:

The ECOPROFIT-foundation program:

- 1) The Ecoprofit-foundation program is spread over approximately six to ten months.
- 2) The participants of the workshops are employees of the companies aspiring to Ecoprofit certification.
- 3) There are at least 8 workshops and they are run by qualified Ecoprofit consultants and experts of various environmental fields. The workshops are comprised of the following topics:
 - a. Development of environmental policy and guidelines for the company
 - b. Implementing practical operational environmental programs in the company
 - c. Set up and managing an environmental team
 - d. Record of waste and emissions as well as developing strategies for their avoidance and reduction
 - e. Implementation of logistics for waste and calculation of environmental costs
 - f. Material flow analysis and other economic aspects of resource optimisation, energy analysis and calculation of CO2 performance
 - g. Dealing with hazardous substances
 - h. Relevant environmental laws
 - i. Eco-controlling, key indicators for ecological and economical success
 - j. Ecological purchase, procurement and grants
 - k. Support with generating the Ecoprofit- report
 - l. Preparation for the Ecoprofit-audit/certification

By completing the sequence of workshops the participants gain a sound knowledge of integrated environmental management. One of the central targets is to train the employees of the companies, so they are able to detect problems themselves and find creative and innovative ideas and solutions as well as initiating, motivating and managing environmental teams. The workshops also enable knowledge exchange between companies of the region. Due to the lengthy training program with ample time between workshops, participants can

(learn by doing) apply their gained knowledge in their respective companies and thereby immediately starting the process of improvement.

- 4) Companies receive individual consultations including a potential analysis on site from experts.
- 5) For a successful certification companies have to submit an ecoprofit-environmental report, which contains listings of crucial resources, hazardous substances, key indicators for crucial environmental and climate impacts, environmental team members, environmental politics, notifications of permission, achieved and planned environmental and climate measures etc.
- 6) The Ecoprofit-audit is executed by independent experts.

ECOPROFIT- Recertification / Follow up program:

Companies, which want to keep their Ecoprofit-certificate, have to join the follow up program after the first year. Beside participating in follow up trainings, the companies need to update their data in the Ecoprofit environmental report, document their achieved performances and list the new environmental measures for the coming year (at least 3 measures every year). Every year the environmental report is examined by an independent auditor, every third year the examination takes place on-site.

The factors of success for the Ecoprofit-programme lie in intense cooperations, qualified know-how and high commitments of all participants.

At the moment more than 180 companies are certified in Vorarlberg.

THE ECOPROFIT-CERTIFICATE FOR COMPANIES

The Ecoprofit-certificate rewards the environmental work and the implementation of an environmental management system in the participating companies.

The following criteria apply:

- 1) Independent experts/auditors examine and evaluate the environmental improvement measures of the company on-site.

The following documentation has to be submitted in the form of an environmental report:

- a) Concept of waste management, energy table
- b) Proof of compliance of all for the company relevant legislative provisions as well as magisterial orders
- c) Internal environmental examination (documentation of operational processes in legal, organisational and technical regard)
- d) Corporate environmental guidelines
- e) Documentation of the environmental and climate achievements of the last year
- f) Submission of planned environmental improvement measures for the next year and forthcoming years

Audit report of the consultants:

- a) Key indicators for success (ecological and economical) of the measures implemented by the company through the Ecoprofit program
 - b) Reports about the situation concerning waste, waste water, emissions, energy, CO₂, neglected deposits of toxic waste
 - c) Reports of possible breach of legal environmental standards.
- 2) The award „ECOPROFIT Company“ is site-specific and is valid for one year.
 - 3) The issuing authority for the reward „Ecoprofit company“ is the government of the federal state of Vorarlberg in Austria.

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