

Worldwide Eco labels: Sustainability Certifications



CERC-ENVIS RESOURCE PARTNER



CONSUMER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE, AHMEDABAD, INDIA

Worldwide Eco labels: Sustainability Certifications

■ Sponsored by
ENVIS (Environment Information System)
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India
New Delhi

■ Year 2019

■ Compiled by

**ENVIS Resource Partner on Environment Literacy:
Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products**

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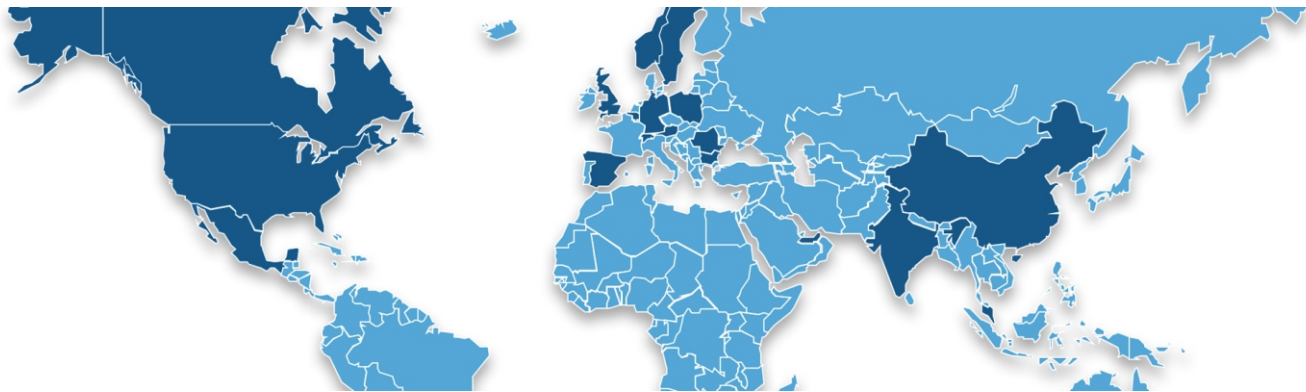
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Introduction

Over the past few decades, there has been a rising concern about the adverse impacts of industrialization on the environment. There has been a mounting pressure on industries to adopt eco-friendly manufacturing processes and disposals. Labeling and certification are two tools that provide consumers with information that was previously unknown to them. Effective labeling and certification mechanisms may shift consumption and production towards socially responsible and sustainable patterns. Eco-labels are affixed to products that pass eco-friendly criteria laid down by government, association or standards certification bodies. The criteria utilise extensive research based on the product's life cycle impact on the environment. Eco-labels may focus on certain environmental aspects of the product, e.g. energy consumption, water use, source of timber, etc., or they may encompass the multiple environmental aspects. Eco-labels differ from green symbols and environmental claims in that the latter are unverified and created by the manufacturer or service provider. Products awarded an eco-label have been assessed and verified by an independent third body and are guaranteed to meet certain environmental performance requirements. Eco-labels are usually funded and backed by the national government, but administered by an independent body.

Industry, government and consumers are vital stakeholders in any eco-labeling scheme. Government backing for eco-labeling schemes is essential. Almost all international eco-labeling schemes require government funding and support. Since eco-labels are voluntary, the support of industry is fundamental. Other key stakeholders are the scientific community, standard bodies and industry associations.

Environmental labelling is a major issue for every international body that deals with the environment or trade. While organisations such as the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Trade Organisation have concentrated on the policy side of the issue, the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) has been carrying out work on standardising environmental labelling schemes.

The ISO work, begun in January 1993, is being carried out under the rubric of the ISO Technical Committee number 207 (TC207). TC207 is the umbrella body for environmental standards setting. It is working on standards ranging from corporate activity (environmental management systems, environmental auditing), to product evaluation (environmental labelling, environmental performance evaluation).

As part of its ISO 14000 series of environmental standards, the ISO has drawn up a group of standards specifically governing environmental labelling. It contains guiding principles for the development and use of certain types of environmental labels.

The ISO has identified three broad types of labelling schemes as a part of its ISO 14020 family. This series of standards provides businesses with a globally recognized and credible set of international benchmarks against which they can prepare their environmental labelling, which is increasingly used on products and in advertising, in response to consumer demand.

Type I environmental labeling: These are labels that give consumers an indication of the overall environmental performance of a specific product compared with others within the same product category. The ecolabelling schemes, which award a mark or a logo based on the fulfilment of a set of criteria. These are compliant with environmental and other relevant legislation. The whole product life cycle are taken into consideration when setting product environmental criteria, like extraction of resources, manufacturing, distribution, use and disposal relating to relevant cross-media environmental indicators. The claims are based on criteria set by a third party. The awarding body may be either a governmental organisation or a private non-commercial entity. Examples include the EU Eco-label, Nordic Swan, Indian Eco Mark and German Blue Angel. ISO 14024:2018 establishes the principles and procedures for Type I environmental labeling programmes. These labels are voluntary labels.

Type II environmental labeling: These labels are “self-declared” environment claims by manufacturers and businesses and could be seen as being “self-declared”. All self-declared environmental claims should be accurate and not misleading, substantiated and verified and not be misinterpreted. The standard makes it clear that the primary responsibility to ensure a claim is accurate resides with the person making the claim. Self-declarations can be presented with no certification by a third party. Self-declared environmental claims are specified in ISO 14021:2016 – Environmental labels and declarations – Self-declared environmental claims. This international standard includes statements, symbols, and graphics regarding products. Furthermore, it describes a general evaluation and verification methodology for self-declared environmental claims, as well as specific methods. It is a single attribute environmental claims such as energy consumption, indoor air quality, or recycled content. Examples include: The recycled content, recyclability or bio degradability of the product, the absence of substances harmful to the environment, non-toxic or natural finishing treatment, etc. These labels are typically mandatory labels.

Type III environmental labeling: These labels are primarily intended for use in business-to-business communication and in public procurement. Environmental declarations present quantified environmental information on the life cycle of a product to enable comparisons between products fulfilling the same function. Additional environmental information, such as the impact on bio diversity, instructions and limits for efficient use, or hazard and risk assessment on human health and the environment, among others, is also given, where relevant. Type III environmental declarations are specified in ISO 14025:2006. It must be always based on information derived from the evaluation of life cycle of the product in compliance with standards ISO 14040. It is also often referred to as environmental product declarations (EPDs). Examples include carbon labels where the amount of CO₂ eq. emitted (as g/unit) is provided on the label. Eco Leaf environmental label of Japan Environmental Management Association for Industry uses the LCA method of Type III.

This book provides different eco label and its certification systems of different countries. These labels apply to products which are directly marketed to consumers. Many types of products, from paint to electronics, are evaluated by eco labeling organizations worldwide. When comparing similar products, eco labels and other voluntary environmental performance criteria can be used to inform purchasing decisions and procure greener products.

AFRICA

Name of Label: Eco Mark - Africa

Brief Description :

The Eco Mark Africa Programme (EMA) is one of the programmes of the African Organization for Standardization (ORAN / ARSO) as a part of the certification scheme, Africa Conformity Assessment Program (ACAP). It defines the rules and procedures for certification for the implementation of African standards (ARS). The African Eco-labelling Mechanism (AEM) as the pan-African political structure and technical frame work awards the Eco Mark Africa (EMA) label on the basis of a clear set of sustainability criteria. It is based on Type I eco labels principles and design.



The EMA aims to improve intra-African trade through certification of goods and services in accordance with African Eco-Labeling Standards (AES). In accordance with socio-economic and environmental requirements, the Eco label certificate is awarded to products and services according to a maturity model -bronze, silver, gold and platinum.

Products/Services : Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries/ Aquaculture, Forestry.

Place of Inception: Kenya

Website: <https://www.arso-oran.org/ecomarkafrika/>,
<https://www.ecomarkafrika.org/about-us>

Name of Label: Eco-Label - Tunisia

Brief Description:

Tunisian Eco label is a voluntary certification system under which the Eco label is awarded after verification of the conformity of the product to a set of technical and ecological criteria throughout its life cycle. The “Eco label” certification offers the company a better visibility and competitiveness of its products / services through credible information dedicated to consumers, a better management of the environment through a rational use of natural resources and a reduction of its impacts. The Center for Environmental Technologies (CITET) has developed the Tunisian eco-label, as a nationwide initiative aiming to improve products and services for textile, tourism, food, soap and cleaning materials.



The label is an International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) Type 1 label established in 2007. It is a voluntary certification scheme to be delivered by the INNORPI (National Institute of Standards and Industrial Property) as an independent third party organisation, following a verification of the product's compliance with a set of technical and ecological criteria during its entire life cycle.

Products and services: It covers tourist accommodation services and textile products, not withstanding the expansion to other ranges of products.

Place of Inception: Tunisia

Website: <http://www.citet.nat.tn/Portail/ecolabel.aspx>

ASIA

Name of Label: Environmental Labelling - China

Brief Description:

China Environment Labelling (CEL) was initiated in 1993 in response to the sustainable idea proposed in UN conference on Environment and Development in 1992. It was initiated and developed under the background of international eco label programme. Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP) (the former State Environmental Protection Administration, SEPA) launched CEL programme in March 1993. The CEL programme is voluntary which follows ISO 14020 and ISO 14024. The former SEPA and former State Bureau of Technical Supervision etc. a total of 12 related national ministries established China Certification Committee for Environmental Labeling Products (CCCEL) in May 1994. China Environmental United Certification Centre Co., Ltd. was found in Dec. 2002, which is authorized by SEPA to perform CEL products certification. China Environmental Labeling is a kind of proof symbol. This government symbol means that the products not only achieve the regular quality, but also achieve the environment protection requirements during the producing, using, and disposing process. Compared with the same kind of products without the environmental labeling, it is less harmful and saves resources.

Products/Services: It provides environmental standards for construction materials, textiles, vehicles, cosmetics, electronics, packaging and more.

Place of Inception: China

Website: http://www.mepcec.com/renzheng_column/113.html



Name of Label : Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS)- Hong Kong

Brief Description:

The Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS) is an independent, non-profit-making and voluntary scheme for the certification of environmentally preferable products launched in December 2000 by Green Council (GC). The scheme sets environmental standards and awards its “Green Label” to products that are qualified regarding their environment attributes and/or performance. In establishing the standards, HKGLS draws from relevant international standards and is benchmarked with well-developed eco labels to ensure credibility of the standards. HKGLS is an ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 14024 Type 1 label, which involves a third-party certification requiring considerations of life cycle impacts. Some of the key criteria contained in these standards also require compliance with applicable legislation.



Products/Services:

General packaging materials; common paper products with recycled content; common plastic products with recycled content; common cleaning content; stationery; other common consumable; computer products; electronic and electrical appliances; construction materials; common paper products without recycled content; automotive products.

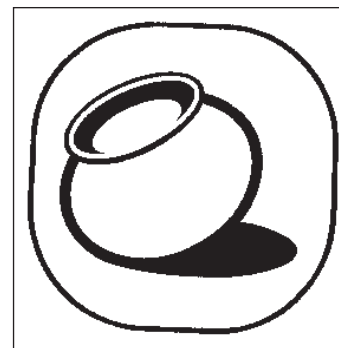
Place of Inception: Hong Kong

Website: https://www.greencouncil.org/en/page.php?sub_id=40

Name of Label : Ecomark - India

Brief Description:

Ecomark is issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as a certification mark for the products which are ecologically safe conforming to the standards prescribed by the BIS. The scheme first saw its application in 1991. The Eco-mark scheme falls under the ambit of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The criteria follows a cradle-to-grave approach, i.e. from raw material extraction, to manufacturing, and to disposal. The 'Ecomark' label is awarded to consumer goods which meet the specified environmental criteria and the quality requirements of Indian Standards. It is a voluntary scheme.



Products / Services:

The Government of India has notified 16 product categories like Food items, Electrical/Electronic Goods, Paper, Lubricating Oils, Packing Materials, Architectural Paints and Powder Coatings, Batteries, Food Additives, Wood Substitutes, Cosmetics, Aerosol Propellants, Fire-extinguisher, Plastic Products, Leather, Soaps & Detergents and Textiles.

Place of Inception: India

Website: <http://cpcb.nic.in/eco-scheme/>

Name of Label: Ekolabel - Indonesia

Brief Description:

The Ekolabel Indonesia Scheme is one of the several standard systems, the interactive web-based tool on private standards developed by the T4SD program of ITC. Ekolabel Indonesia is a certificate for Indonesian products deemed as "environmentally-friendly" based on having a reduced environmental impact over the product's life-cycle compared to products which do not meet an equivalent standard. It was established in 2004 by Indonesia's Ministry of Environment. The Ekolabel Indonesia certification companies are accredited by the National Accreditation Committee (KAN), a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). It meets the ISO 14024 standards for ecolabelling.



Indonesian ecolabel is a proactive tool for environmental management voluntary and is expected to be an effective tool to protect environmental functions, interests' community and increasing production efficiency and competitiveness. Besides that, ecolabel is also intended to realize synergies to control negative impacts on the environment throughout its life cycle as well encourage supply and demand for environmentally friendly products and services.

Products/Services:

Ekolabel Indonesia covers detergent, leather, textiles and various types of paper, such as tissue, printing and wrapping paper.

Place of Inception: Indonesia

Website:<http://www.menlh.go.id/ekolabel-indonesia/>,
https://www.switch-asia.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/Indonesia_2013DEC09_SCP_Incentives_and_instruments_final_report.pdf

Name of Label: Green Label - Israel

Brief Description:

The Standards Institution of Israel published a standard for ecological labeling, known as the Green Label, in 1994. The green label has since been granted by the Ministry of Environmental Protection (MoEP) and the Standards Institution of Israel (SII) to products or services with an overall reduced environmental impact in comparison to comparable products.

The Green Label was originally based on Israeli Standard SI 1738, which is based on EU Directive 880/92. SI 1738 was replaced in 1999 with SI 14020. The standard provides guidelines and general principles which, if followed, would allow a company to declare its product "green."

Products and services:

There are around 100 green label for products and services belonging to different categories.

Place of Inception: Israel

Website:

<https://portal.sii.org.il/eng/qualityauth/ishur/greencertificate/tavyarok/>



Name of Label: Eco Mark - Japan

Brief Description:

The Eco Mark Programme was launched in February 1989. The symbol is two arms embracing the world, symbolising the protection of the earth. The Environment Association, supervised by the Japanese Environment Agency, is in charge of the Eco Mark programme. All technical, research, and administrative support is provided by the government. The labeling programme is guided by two committees. The Eco Mark Promotion Committee acts primarily in a supervisory capacity, approving the guidelines for the programme's operation and advising on operations, including evaluation of the programme categories and criteria. In addition to the Promotion Committee there is a committee for approval of products. The Japanese programme is completely voluntary for manufacturers. Once a product is approved by the Approval Committee, a two-year renewable licensing contract for the use of the Eco Mark is signed with the Japan Environment Association.



This programme is managed in accordance with the standard and principle (ISO 14020 - An environmental label and declaration, a general principle, ISO 14024 - An environmental label and declaration, a type I environmental-label display, a principle and procedure) of International Organization of Standardization (ISO).

Eco Mark is the mark that is attached on a product which is available in our daily lives as well as certified as contributing to environmental preservation in terms of less environmental burden. It is also aimed for the consumers to make an environmental - friendly product choice and also to consider the relation of life and environment.

Products/Services:

More than 60 categories (for information in detail follow the link)

Place of Inception: Japan

Website: <https://www.ecomark.jp/english/>

Name of label: SIRIM Eco-Labeling Scheme - Malaysia

Brief Description:

The SIRIM QAS International is a national non-profit Ecolabelling organization in Malaysia, operating the National Ecolabelling Programme, is the owner of the Ecolabel of the programme identifies as "SIRIM Eco-Labeling Scheme". This scheme has been recognized as the National Ecolabelling Programme of Malaysia. Under the SIRIM Eco-Labeling Scheme, a product will be independently tested and verified against specific eco-label criteria and the applicable product standard before the organisation is allowed to use SIRIM Eco-Labeling mark on its product, packaging and promotional materials.



In ensuring the credibility of SIRIM Eco-Labeling mark, the licensee will be placed under a surveillance audit where a factory audit is carried out for each renewal period. During factory audit, product and organisation's quality system will be re-evaluated to ensure continuous compliance against the requirements under the SIRIM Eco-Labeling Scheme. The organisation has gained accreditations from leading accreditation bodies such as the Department of Standards Malaysia (STANDARDS MALAYSIA) for Product Certification Scheme against the ISO/IEC 17065 - General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems. The accreditation takes into account the requirements of ISO 14024 - Environmental labels and declarations-- Type I environmental labelling -- Principles and procedures.

Products/Services:

Product categories are building products, buildings, cleaning products, cosmetics / personal care, electronics, forest products / paper, appliances, and packaging.

Place of Inception: Malaysia

Website: <http://www.sirim-qas.com.my/our-services/product-certification/eco-labelling-scheme>

Name of Label: Green Choice - Philippines

Brief Description:

The National Ecolabelling Programme – Green Choice Philippines (NELP-GCP) is one of the country's initiatives to exercise the fundamentals of sustainable development. It aims to change the behavioral patterns in consumption and production that tend to misuse, abuse and degrade the environment.

This voluntary third-party environmental declaration, is guided by principles and procedures of ISO 14024. Through a multi-sectoral process, the programme provides criteria for environmentally-preferable products which can be used as a guide for consumers and institutions for product selection. The NELP-GCP envisions that environment friendly products or services are being produced and distributed in the country. The NELP-GCP, through its administrator, Philippine Center for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development, Inc. has also partnered with the Philippine Green Building Council, a group campaigning to green the building industry in the country by implementing a rating system.



Products /Services:

It has granted the Seal of Approval to green products under the categories of laundry detergent, cement, natural in fill material, engine oil, ceramic tile, water-based paint, LED light, paper hand towel, tissue papers, induction lamp, electronic ballast, organic liquid disinfectant, fiber cement board and photocopier. Also, the programme has developed and approved the environmental criteria for certain products and services, including tissue paper products, household batteries, engine oils, printing and writing paper products, crayons, fire extinguishers, cement, fluorescent lamps, electronic ballasts, paints, writing instruments, paper envelopes, paper boards, inkjet and toner cartridges, desktop and laptop computers, multifunction printing devices, printers, photocopiers, facsimile machines, liquid disinfectants, bath soaps, hair shampoos, fiber cement board, liquid dishwashing products and food services.

Place of Inception: Philippines

Website: <http://pcepsdi.org.ph/programme/green-choice-philippines/about-green-choice-philippines/>

Name of Label: Singapore Green Label - Singapore

Brief Description:

The Singapore Green Labelling Scheme (SGLS) was launched in May 1992 to endorse industrial and consumer products that have less undesirable effects on our environment. Administered by the Singapore Environment Council (SEC), the SGLS is the region's most established ecolabelling scheme with over 3000 unique products certified across 28 countries. The Singapore Green Labeling Scheme (SGLS) aims to help the public identify environment-friendly products that meet certain eco-standards specified by the scheme and seeks to encourage the level of eco-consumerism in Singapore as well as to identify the growing demand for greener products in the market.



Products/ Services:

Thousands of products are certified belonging to the following categories: Building Materials, Lighting, Cleaning Products, Office supplies and equipment, Interior Products, General Products, Household Products, Personal Care Products and Electrical Products Solar Powered.

Place of Inception: Singapore

Website: <http://www.sec.org.sg/web/>

Name of Label: Eco-Label - Korea

Brief Description:

The Ecolabelling Programme is operated by the Eco-label certification office and the Environmental standard management office from Korea Environmental Industry & Technology Institute (KEITI) which are in-charge of this system. Overall management of Eco-label certification includes consultation for application, first and renewal certification, issue the Eco-label certificate, management of current status of certified products and companies which maintain certification, support the international certification.



Environmental standard management office undertakes the following work:

- Overall management of Eco-label criteria that includes development and revision of Eco-label criteria,

- Research of green product standards,
- International activities to standardize Eco-label criteria,
- Overall management of surveillance and monitoring for eco-label certified products includes:
 - Investigation whether certified products satisfy eco-label criteria,
 - Investigation of unauthorized use of Eco-label,
 - Examination of exaggerated packing.

Products/Services:

Certification of 165 product categories including office supplies/machines, furniture, electric and electronic products, construction materials, household items, goods for automobiles etc.

Place of Inception: Korea

Websites: <http://el.keiti.re.kr/enservice/enindex.do>

Name of Label: Green Mark - Taiwan

Brief Description:

The Green Mark represents for “recyclable, low-polluting, and resource-saving”.The Green Mark is administrated by the Environmental Protection Administrations of R.O.C (Taiwan). It was launched in 1992 in order to encourage companies to manufacture products that have less impact on the environment, reduces wastes and promotes recycling. In long term, the promotion of Green Mark's products aims to promote green consumerism among consumers to select recyclable, low-polluting, resource-saving products.



The certification of Green Mark is designed on the basis of ISO 14024 eco-friendly principles. Practically, it acts as an economic tool to boost products and services that have less impact on environment. As a result, Green Mark is awarded to products in the top 20%-30% of its category.

As the continuous effort of the Green Mark promotion, the Type 2 Green Mark certification was introduced by the EPA in 11th September 2014, after the amendment of Directions for the Promotions of the Green Consumerism and Environmental Protection Products. It was formerly known as the Type II Environmentally Preferable Products and promoted since 1990. Products which are not listed in the Green Mark categories are eligible to apply the Type 2 Green Mark, with condition that it should comply with the specific environmental claims.



Products/Services:

There are around 160 product categories which are marked with the Green Mark. The Type 2 Green Mark is awarded to uncategorized products that comply with the standards of Green Mark.

Place of Inception: Taiwan

Website: <https://greenliving.epa.gov.tw/Public/Eng/GreenMark/First>

Name of Label: Green Label - Thailand

Brief Description:

Green Label, Thailand Environment Institute is an environmental label, Type I according to ISO 14024, has started to provide environmentally friendly products since the year 1994, with the development of cooperation with the environmental labeling agencies of other countries. Green Label has joined as a member of the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN), which has certified the GEN Internationally Coordinated Ecolabelling System (GENICES). Green Label Project of Thailand Initiated by the Thailand Business Council for Sustainable Development (TBCSD) in October 1993 and received approval and cooperation from the Ministry of Industry Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thai Industrial Standards Institute and other related agencies. Therefore, it is considered a project that is a collaboration between government agencies and various central organizations, with the Thai Industrial Standards Institute and the Thai Environment Institute acting as the secretary.

**Products/Services:**

Appliances, Building Products, Cleaning Products, Cosmetics/Personal Care, Electronics, Energy, Forests Products/Paper, Health Care Services & equipment, Textiles, Transportation, Water etc.

Place of Inception: Thailand

Website: <http://www.tei.or.th/greenlabel/>

EUROPE

Name of Label: Austrian Ecolabel - Austria

Brief Description:

In 1990 the “Austrian Eco-label” (in German: “Österreichisches Umweltzeichen”) was created on the initiative of the Environment Ministry. The label informs the public about the environmental impacts of products and services. It marks environmentally friendly product options for consumers. The Austrian Eco-label is a quality certification mark which at the same time guarantees that the certified products and services create only low environmental stress. Furthermore, wherever possible and useful also criteria from the other pillars of sustainability (social and economic criteria) are taken into account in the preparation of the specific Guidelines. The Austrian Eco-label is awarded to products and tourist services as well as to schools and other educational institutions. Further, the label is carried by only those that are proven to be environmentally compatible products and which additionally exhibit a suitable fitness for use (quality).



Products/Services:

It is awarded to products and tourist services as well as to schools and other educational institutions. More than 4,400 products and services now carry the state eco-label. Ecolabel is also provided to “Green Meetings and Green Events.” The quality label has been created in 2010.

Place of Inception: Austria

Website: <https://www.umweltzeichen.at/de/home/start>

Name of Label: The Catalan Eco-label - Catalonia

Brief Description:

The Emblem of Guarantee of Environmental Quality is an eco-labelling scheme created under the Catalan Government's Decree 316 in 1994. The Emblem provides consumers and users with better, more reliable information. It promotes the design, production, marketing, use and consumption of products and services that fulfill certain environmental quality requirements beyond those established as compulsory under current regulations.



At the beginning, the Catalan Emblem was only for products, and in 1998 by further Decree the system was extended to services. It is a type I

ecolabel, which is a voluntary environmental rating system that identifies and certifies certain products or services that have a lower environmental footprint. The applicable standard for this type of label is ISO 14024. This ecolabelling system is complementary to other ecolabelling systems, especially to the EU Ecolabel; it means that if the same product group exists in the EU Ecolabel system the criteria are compatible. There is also an exemption for paying the renovation fee for the products/services that also are awarded with the EU Ecolabel. On the other hand, the General Directorate for Environmental Qualification is in charge of the Catalan Emblem and it is also the Catalan Competent Body of the EU Ecolabel.

Products/Services:

It has 31 products groups. Many are about recycled products or materials. It covers services as diverse as office buildings, libraries and museums, vehicle fleet management services and tourism-related services.

Place of Inception: Catalonia

Website: http://mediambient.gencat.cat/ca/05_ambits_dactuacio/avaluacio_a_m biental/

Name of Label: Environmentally Friendly - Croatia

Brief Description:

Croatia's eco-label called 'Environmentally Friendly' was developed in 1993 by the country's Ministry of the Environment. It is based on the example of the Euro-Flower and Germany's "Blue Angel." The extension of the environmental label programme continues to have priority in Croatia, assuming that the labelling of environmentally friendly products forms a basis for trade in other sectors, too. In 1994, criteria existed for 25 product groups. Product testing is made upon application of the manufacturers.

The Ministry is responsible for two eco-labels: the national environmental protection label 'Environmentally Friendly' (Prijatelj okoliša) and the European Union environmental protection label EU Ecolabel. They belong to Type I environmental labels and declarations in line with the definition of the international standard for classification of environmental labels EN ISO 14024:2000. Type I environmental labels are voluntary, include various environmental criteria throughout the life cycle of a product or service, and what is more important, they have an independent system for qualified assessment/verification by third parties.



Products/Services:

The label awarding programme is carried out with the objective of promoting products and services which, in comparison with equivalent products or services, have a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle and thereby contribute to more efficient use of environmental components and a high level of environmental protection.

Place of Inception: Republic of Croatia

Website: <https://mzoe.gov.hr/glavni-izbornik-3986/environment/eco-labels/1411>

Name of Label: 'Ekologicky Setrany Vyrobek'- Czech Republic

Brief Description:

The Czech eco-label 'Ekologicky Setrany Vyrobek' was developed by the Czech Ministry of the Environment in 1993. It was an initiation of the Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of the Economy. The ecolabel is in harmonisation with the labelling schemes of OECD and EU. The Czech eco-label is a registered trademark. Excluded from labelling are foods and pharmaceuticals. The label is awarded for periods of two years.



The Ecolabel trademark is the protected trademark of the Programme that, in the framework of a licensing agreement with the applicant/supplier, is awarded for a limited period of time to a product of the applicant/supplier that complies with all the criteria laid down for an environment friendly product. The trademark is registered with the office for Industrial Ownership in Prague. The Ecolabel trademark may be used only in a single-colour form (green or black) and the pertinent identification number must always be given.

The ecolabel of the Czech Republic and the National Programme for Labelling Environmentally Friendly Products are subject to the international technical standard ISO 14024 Environmental Labels and Declarations – Type I Environmental Labelling – the Principles and Procedures and, therefore, they serve as an internationally recognized confirmation of the quality of a product.

Products/Services:

In general, the Czech ecolabel criteria for products and services covered by the EU Ecolabel are identical. These are paper and paper products, personal hygiene products, construction, office, apartment and garden, detergents, industrial chemistry, shoes and textile and services.

Place of Inception: Prague

Website: <https://www.cenia.cz/spolecenska-odpovednost/ekoznaceni/>

Name of Label: European Eco-Label

Brief Description:

Established in 1992 and recognised across Europe and worldwide, the EU Ecolabel is a label of environmental excellence that is awarded to products and services meeting high environmental standards throughout their life-cycle. The functioning of the EU Ecolabel is set through a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council. Its daily management is carried out by the European Commission together with bodies from the Member States and other stakeholders. Each state of the European Economic Area designates a competent body, an independent and impartial organisation that implements the EU Ecolabel scheme at national level. Competent bodies play a central role in the work of the EU Ecolabel scheme and are the first point of contact for applicants. They specifically assess applications and award the EU Ecolabel to products that meet the criteria set for them. EU Ecolabel is a voluntary scheme, which means that producers, importers and retailers can choose to apply for the label for their products.



Products/Services:

Every product and service placed on the market in the European Economic Area (European Union plus Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway) that meets the EU Ecolabel criteria set for it can be awarded the EU Ecolabel. Criteria are currently established for a wide range of non-food and non-medical product groups, including detergents, paper towel rolls, laptops, clothing and tourist accommodation services. The scheme is currently open to all products and services, except for food, drinks, pharmaceutical products and medical devices. So far, thousands of products across a huge range of product groups, including textiles, soaps and shampoos, and tourist accommodation have already received the EU Ecolabel.

Place of Inception: Europe

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/>

Name of Label : NF ENVIRONNEMENT Mark - France

Brief description:

The NF ENVIRONNEMENT Mark is the only official French eco-label. The NF-ENVIRONNEMENT eco - label was created in 1991 by the French Association of Standards (AFNOR), owner of the NF mark. The AFNOR Certification is the official national standardization and certification body in France under the French Ministry of Industry. The aim of NF ENVIRONNEMENT Mark certification is to attest to the compliance of products and/or services with the national, European and international regulatory documents concerning them, if necessary completed by other reference documents, in accordance with the conditions defined by the Certification Guidelines. A multi-criteria approach is followed, applied and as far as is needed, to every stage of the product or service life cycle.

The NF ENVIRONNEMENT mark aims to certify that the products and/or services on which it is affixed have a minimal negative impact on the environment, along with a satisfactory quality of use compared to other similar products or services available on the market.



Products/Services:

The NF ENVIRONNEMENT Mark certification may apply to products and/or services intended for consumers, as well as intermediary products or services. It may also be attributed to products and/or services with functions contributing to environmental protection.

Place of Inception: France

Website: <https://www.ecolabels.fr/quest-ce-quun-ecolabel/>,
<http://cdn.afnor.org/download/reggen/FR/Marque%20NF%20Environnement.pdf>

Name of Label: Blue Angel - Germany

Brief description:

The Blue Angel is the first environmental label worldwide and was created in 1978 on the initiative of the German Federal Minister of the Interior and approved by the Ministers of the Environment for the German federal states. It is a market-based, voluntary instrument of environmental policy. Its scientific and holistic approach, as well as its independence thanks to the broad-based involvement of professional and commercial groups and the Environmental Label Jury, provide the foundations for the trust that consumers have placed in the environmental label.



The standards set by the Blue Angel provide clear guidance for manufacturers and commercial companies when they want to improve the environmental performance of their products and services. Consumers can base their purchasing decisions on the Blue Angel and consciously choose the better environmentally-friendly alternative.

Environmental label programmes operate in accordance with ISO 14024 (Type-1 Ecolabels). The requirements set by the Blue Angel place a particular focus on examining the impact that products and services have on the environment: on the climate, resources, water, soil and air. These tests also focus on their impact on people.

Products/Services:

Around 12,000 environmentally-friendly products and services from around 1,500 companies have been awarded the Blue Angel.

Place of Inception: Germany

Website: <https://www.blauer-engel.de/en/our-label-environment>

Name of Label: Ecolabel - Hungary

Brief Description:

The Hungarian ecolabel was found in 1994, by the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development. The label represents an oak, which is a robust, indigenous tree in Hungary. Criteria are fully harmonised with the EU Ecolabel requirements if the product group is also involved in the EU Ecolabel scheme. It meets the requirements of ISO 14024 standard. The Ministry for Rural Development is responsible for tasks relating to



Community ecolabels, and these tasks are performed by the Hungarian Eco-Labeling Organisation, in collaboration with the Evaluation and Qualification Committee appointed by the competent minister. The Commission also contributes to the performance of the Community Eco-label tasks, plays an important role in the development of eco-label criteria.

The total number of license holder companies is 60 so far. Under the Hungarian law, the ecolabel criteria need to be revised at least every 5 years. In addition, the Hungarian Ecolabel adopts the published EU Ecolabel criteria so that when they are modified, the modification applies in the Hungarian scheme, once approved by the Ecolabelling Board.

Products/Services:

At present, there are a total of 54 different product groups representing a span of 623 products.

Place of Inception: Hungary

Website: http://okocimke.kvvm.hu/public_hun/index.html?ppid=1200000
http://okocimke.kvvm.hu/public_eng/?ppid=2200000,
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/other-ecolabels.html>

Name of Label: Milieukeur/ PlanetProof - The Netherland

Brief Description:

Milieukeur, the Dutch environmental quality label, has an integrated approach to making products and services more sustainable. The purpose is to develop and manage criteria for products, services and business processes based on a distinction between environmental effects such as market transparency and thus promote sustainability. The Ecolabel criteria relate to the entire life cycle of the product or service. From raw materials, energy and water use, to harmful substances, packaging and waste.

The Stichting Milieukeur (SMK) is the organisation established in 1992 on the initiative of the Ministries of VROM and EZ for the development and management of criteria for the Dutch Milieukeur label. At the establishment, SMK was also designated by the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment as a Competent Body for the EU Ecolabel. The SMK had coined in 2017 a new name – On the way to Planet Proof – that aims to internationalize the Milieukeur label for a whole range of plant-based products. This new name is available to label holders whose products comply with Milieukeur's standards. Trading companies and



retailers can also apply for a certification to use the Planet Proof label. Both names will still exist side by side for the time being.

Products/Services:

Food plant products, food animal products, food products, consumer products and services, ranging from vegetables, potatoes, fruit, beer, pork, trees and plants to concrete products, fire extinguishers, florists, butchers, green electricity and car washes.

Place of Inception: The Netherland

Website:<https://www.milieukeur.com/275/home.html#>,
<https://www.planetproof-international.eu/620/m/nieuws/465/details.html>,
<https://www.planetproof.nl/>,https://www.smk.nl/Public/Jaarverslagen/SMKJaarverslag2012_EUEcolabel_Milieukeur.pdf

Name of label: Swan - Nordic Countries

Brief Description:

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel was established in 1989 by the Nordic Council of Ministers as a voluntary ecolabelling scheme for the Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It is an effective tool to help companies that want to go ahead with sustainable solutions - and thereby enable consumers and professional buyers to choose the environmentally best goods and services. The Swan logo demonstrates that a product is a good environmental choice. The Nordic Swan Ecolabel is one of the founders back in 1994 of the international network for ISO 14024 Type 1 ecolabels, GEN.



The entire life cycle of the product, from raw material to production, use, disposal and recycling, is included in the assessment, when drawing up the requirements for an ecolabelled product. This is important to ensure that products reduce the overall impact on the environment and the climate. Alongside environmental requirements, the criteria also include requirements regarding product properties that ensure quality and durability.

Products/Services:

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel has 60 different product groups counting more than 200 different product types. More than 25,000 different products are sold with the Nordic Swan ecolabel in the Nordic countries and the number is growing. The product groups include cleaning, printing, textiles etc.

Place of Inception: Sweden

Website:<https://www.nordic-ecolabel.org/the-nordic-swan-ecolabel/>

Name of Label: Znak EKO - Poland

Brief Description:

The Polish Ecological Mark-Znak EKO was created as a result of the initiative of the Ministry of the Environment and the Polish Centre for Testing and Certification (PCBC), in 1998. The national ecolabelling scheme is administered by PCBC in parallel with EU Ecolabel scheme. The Eco Mark scheme is compatible with the EU Ecolabel scheme; EU criteria are adopted for those product groups which are covered by both schemes. Polish Centre for Testing and Certification is the only Polish representatives in the work of the EU Committee for Ecolabelling EUEB (European Union Ecolabelling Board).



It is a voluntary certification. It certifies domestic as well as foreign products and services which do not cause adverse impacts to the environment and fulfill the established criteria concerning health protection, environmental protection and economic use of natural resources during the whole life cycle of a product.

Products/Services: Fertilizers, textiles and chemical

Place of Inception: Warszawa, Poland

Website: <https://www.pcbc.gov.pl/en/about-us>

Name of Label: Ecolabel -Slovak Republic

Brief Description:

In the Slovak Republic (NPEHOV), eco-labelling programme was introduced on February 1996 and eco-labeling was first implemented in 1997 through a national scheme for awarding national eco-label "Environmentálne Vhodný Product." The name of the programme is National Programme of Environmental Assessment and Ecolabelling. The conditions and procedures for granting and using the national eco-label is regulated by Act no. 469/2002 Coll. the environmental labeling of products, as amended.

Its competent body is Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic and technical support is Slovak Environmental Agency. Since 2004, the entry of the Slovak Republic into the European Union, applicants are able to get the European Ecolabel "EUEcolabel" (formerly "the European



Flower”). Grant of European eco-label is carried out by the EP and R (EC) No. 66/2010 on the EU Ecolabel.

Products/ Services:

Among the products that are excluded from the scope of those regulations and cannot be awarded eco-label are:

- drinks, and food products,
- human and veterinary drugs, medical devices,
- products containing chemical substances or mixtures that meet the criteria for classification as toxic, hazardous to the environment, carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction under the Regulation EP and C (EC) No. 1272/2008 and products containing the substance in accordance with Article 57 of EP and (EC) No. 1907/2006
- products that are produced by the likely significantly harmful processes to humans or the environment;
- products that do not represent a significant volume of sales and trade in the internal market.

Place of Inception: Slovak Republic

Website: <http://www.minzp.sk/en/iep/>, http://www.sszp.eu/wp-content/uploads/2013_No2-Vo1_Journal-JEPSEM_p-18_Rusko_f4.pdf, <https://www.sazp.sk/zivotne-prostredie/environmentalne-manazerstvo/environmentalne-oznacovanie-produktov/narodna-znacka-environmentalne-vhodny-produkt.html>

Name of Label: AENOR - Spain

Brief Description:

The Spanish eco-label Marca Aenor Medio Ambiente was developed by the private and independent Asociación Española de Normalización y Certificación (AENOR) and first awarded in 1994. AENOR is an organisation dedicated to the development of standardisation and certification in all industrial and service sectors. The AENOR was designated to carry out these activities by Order of the Ministry of Industry and Energy, on 26 February 1986. It is an organization dedicated to the development of standardization and certification in all industrial and service sectors. Its aim is to contribute to the improvement in quality and competitiveness of companies, and to environmental protection.



The institution in charge, besides AENOR, is the Technical Certification Committee being composed of representatives of industry, trade,

manufacturers, consumer protection and environmental protection organisations and the competent ministries. On the basis of life-cycle analyses the Technical Certification Committee elaborates product criteria and prepares the award notice. During the three-year duration of the contract on the use of the eco-label, the manufacturer must reckon with regular checks of the certified product. The AENOR Mark is an ecolabel, compliant with ISO 14024 environmental standards.

Products and services: It offers the largest catalogue of environmental certificates, validations and verifications, which allow an organisation to accredit their environmental commitment, through the activities that it carries out or the products that it creates or sells, minimising environmental impact and promoting a better management of resources. At present, 436 products in 12 product groups are awarded the Spanish eco-label.

Place of Inception: Madrid, Spain

Website: <https://www.en.aenor.com/certificacion/medio-ambiente>

Name of Label: Vitality Leaf - Russia

Brief Description:

The ecolabel is the first and only internationally recognized system of voluntary environmental certification of goods, works and services in Russia which is based on their life cycle analysis (type I ecolabel). Today the ecolabelling programme covers all basic product categories and has obtained respect and credibility in the market.

The programme was founded in 2001 and is administrated by “Ecological Union”, one of the leading non-commercial organizations in Russia (“St.-Petersburg Ecological Union” until 2010). The Programme is the member of the Global Ecolabelling Network since 2007 and accredited at the Global Ecolabelling Network's Internationally Coordinated Ecolabelling System (GENICES) since 2011.

Certification procedure under the “Vitality Leaf” programme is based on full life cycle assessment – “from cradle to grave”. The decision on the issue of certificate of conformity and permission to use conformity label is made after the positive experts' conclusion.



Products / Services: More than 100 items of goods and services of well-known foreign and Russian companies are labelled. There are 139 product items and 1 service item from 15 companies certified by “Vitality Leaf” – building and finishing materials, cleaning detergents, electronic devices, food products, hotels and offices.

Place of Inception: Saint-Petersburg, Russia

Website: <http://ecounion.ru/en/vitality-leaf/%D0%BE-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%BC%D0%B5/vitality-leaf-program/>

Name of Label: Ecolabel - Ukraine

Brief Description:

In Ukraine ecolabelling program is implemented since 2003 on the initiative of All-Ukrainian non-governmental organization “Living Planet” with the assistance of the Committee of Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine on Ecological Policy and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

Taking into account the mission of sustainable development and consumption, which is stated in the Statute of the organization, the decision was made to implement an ecolabelling program of type I according to the requirements of international standard ISO 14024. The ecolabelling scheme was developed and ecolabelling body was founded taking into account best practices of other ecolabelling programs, such as programs of the European Union, Germany, U.S., Nordic countries and others. The sign “Green Crane” is more recognizable in Ukraine than any other ecolabel.

In 2005 ecolabelling body has been accredited in the System of Independent Certification in accordance with the requirements of standards DSTU EN 45011-2001. The same year the subcommittee "Life cycle assessment" was created in the composition of National Technical Committee of Standardization "Natural Environmental Protection of Ukraine" (TC 82). Since 2005 this subcommittee is the base for ecological criteria development. In 2010 ecolabelling was accredited by the National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine in accordance with the requirements of standards DSTU EN 45011-2001.



Products and services:

Environmental certification is available for 54 categories of goods and services. These are materials and products for construction and decoration, chemical industry products, health and beauty products, other manufactured goods, equipment and machinery, alcoholic beverages, drinks and water and food products.

Place of Inception: Ukraine

Website: <https://www.ecolabel.org.ua/en/>

NORTH AMERICA

Name of the Label: Environmental Choice - Canada

Brief Description:

Launched by the Canadian federal government - Ministry of the Environment – Environment Canada (EC) in 1988. EC is also responsible for the development of certification criteria as well as for the award of the label. The EcoLogo has grown to serve buyers and sellers of green products throughout the United States and Canada and around the world. In fact, the EcoLogo is North America's oldest environmental standard and certification organisation (and the second oldest in the world). It is the only North American standard approved by the Global Ecolabeling Network as meeting the international ISO 14024 standard for environmental labels. The Canadian EcoLogo Programme, also referred to as “Environmental Choice,” helps consumers identify environmentally preferable products and services. It is managed by Terra Choice. Products that display the EcoLogo have been verified by a third party to ensure their environmental claims are credible.



Products/Services:

The criteria address multiple environmental attributes related to human health and environmental considerations throughout the life cycle of the product. Currently, there are 122 Certification Criteria Documents addressing over 250 product types. Currently over 7,000 products are EcoLogo certified, including: paint, insulation, flooring, cleaning products, paper, tissue, electricity, printing inks, office furniture and equipment.

Place of Inception: Canada

Website: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/oca-bc.nsf/eng/ca02742.html>
<https://greenterrafirma.com/EcoLogo.html>

Name of Label: Green Seal - USA

Brief Description:

Green Seal was a pioneer in the ecolabeling movement. It was founded in 1989 in the U.S. It is also a founding member of the Global Ecolabelling Network, the internationally recognized network of ecolabelling organizations. They follow Environment Protection Agency's requirements for third-party certification like open, transparent standard development process and award criteria, criteria based on life cycle analysis, clear consumer communication on nature of certification, regular updating of standards and criteria, facility inspection or audit, protocols for testing institutions or laboratories, access to certification for companies of all sizes. Their procedures are reviewed by third parties and meet the standards and guidelines of ISO 14020/14024 standards and Global Ecolabelling Network's Internationally Coordinated Ecolabelling System (GENICES)



Products/Services:

Green Seal has certified thousands of products and services in over 450 categories such as construction materials and building equipment, food packing & paper, household cleaning products, industrial and institutional cleaning products etc.

Place of Inception: USA

Website: <https://www.greenseal.org/certification/>, <https://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts/introduction-ecolabels-and-standards-greener-products>

SOUTH AMERICA

Name of Label: 'Qualidad Ambiental' - Brazil

Brief Description:

The Brazilian eco-label 'Qualidad Ambiental' was developed by the Associacao Brasileira de Normas Tecnicas (ABNT) under an agreement between government, economy and industry. This Programme is a voluntary certification of products and services, developed in accordance with the standards ISO 14020 and ISO 14024 in 1995. It is classified as a Type I Label, which is a third party certification. This type of label takes into account the product life cycle, aiming to reduce negative impacts caused to the environment in all stages of the life cycle of these products: resource extraction, manufacturing, distribution, use and disposal.



The Ecological Label ABNT aims to stimulate the demand and offer of products and services environmentally responsible, guaranteeing to the consumer the reliability of the information. All Ecological Label programme criteria are developed based on consultations with other GEN members and ABNT / CTC-20, a technical committee that has representatives from specific product, neutral and consumer sectors. In addition, the criteria are available for public consultation prior to their publication.

The ABNT Certifier considers the participation of ABNT / CTC-20 and the general public to be of great importance in order to guarantee transparency and credibility to the Eco-label certification process. In addition to environmental issues, the programme also provides adequate criteria to use to ensure that the products have the required quality, in addition to being environmentally friendly, and also some criteria that are focused on social aspects.

Products/Services:

Its certification methodology attests to the environmental performance of products or services. It certifies furniture, construction, steel, fire protection, safety, electrical, and automotive components.

Place of Inception: Brazil

Website: <https://www.abntonline.com.br/sustentabilidade/Rotulo/Default>

SOUTH PACIFIC

Name of Label : Good Environmental Choice - Australia

Brief Description:

Good Environmental Choice Australia (GECA) is a not-for-profit, membership based organisation with a mission to promote environmentally preferable products and services. Its transparent certification programme established in 2001, develops standards against which products and services can be independently audited. Standards are developed following ISO 14024 principles and ISEAL frameworks for global best practice in ecolabelling, which are then independently assessed by their Assurance Providers. It addresses multiple environmental attributes such as toxicity, air quality, energy use, recyclability, VOCs, carcinogens, reducing water consumption, protecting waterways, use of sustainable materials and minimising material usage. They also consider impacts across the entire life cycle of a product or service, from raw material extraction through to use and eventual disposal or breakdown.

**Products/Services:**

GECA has over 2000 individual products and services certified across their standards. The product categories applied to building products, cleaning products, cosmetics, personal care, electronics forest products, paper, furniture, packaging and textiles.

Place of Inception: Australia

Website: <http://www.geca.eco/about-us/>

Name of Label : Environmental Choice - New Zealand

Brief description:

In New Zealand, Environmental Choice is the official environmental label. The programme, which commenced in 1992, operates independently from the government but the label is owned and endorsed by the Ministry for the Environment. It is a member of the Global Ecolabelling Network since 2000, the Environmental Choice New Zealand label is New Zealand's only Type I ecolabel. The Environmental Choice New Zealand label identifies products and services which minimise negative impact on the environment. Products and services that carry the ECNZ label have been independently assessed against stringent, world class criteria across their whole life cycle.



Products/Services:

Around 27 products and services in building and construction products, flooring products, cleaners and detergents, recycled products and services, toiletry and personal hygiene products and offices products and services.

Place of Inception: New Zealand

Website: <http://www.enviro-choice.org.nz/index.html>



Consumer Education and Research Centre

Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC), set up in 1978, is a non-political, non-profit and nongovernment organisation dedicated to the education and empowerment of consumers as well as promotion and protection of consumer interests through effective uses of education, research, the media and law. CERC has three major roles-to make consumers aware of their rights, to help them protect themselves and to make providers of goods and services accountable. Its activities include complaints handling, legal advice and litigation, consumer education and awareness programmes, library and information service, publication, comparative testing of products, advocacy, investor and environment protection.

CERC-ENVIS Resource Partner

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has recognized Consumer Education and Research Centre (CERC) as ENVIS (Environment Information System) Centre in 2005. The focus of ENVIS is to provide environmental information to decision makers, policy planners, scientists and engineers, research workers, etc. across the country. ENVIS was conceived as a distributed information network with the subject-specific centers to carry out the mandates and to provide the relevant and timely information to all concerned.

Subject assigned to the CERC- ENVIS Centre is "Environment Literacy - Eco-labelling and Eco-friendly Products." The Centre launched the website <http://cercenvis.nic.in/> on NIC (National Informatics Centre) platform with the theme 'Eco-labelling and Eco-Friendly Products'. The website furnishes the information on national and international scenario on this subject.

It publishes theme based quarterly newsletter named "Green Insights". It also circulates bi-monthly e-bulletin "Green Alert". Since Social Media is very popular among youth and to attract them and sensitise them towards eco products, ENVIS Resource Partner has started a page on facebook also (<https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling/>).



CERC-ENVIS Resource Partner

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EcoProductsEcoLabeling/>