

For the concrete implementation there are examples for possible measures in the implementing tips of the guideline. A part of these measures has to be implemented until the first certification, another part until the follow-up audit after 4 years. For the scoring of measures there are respective specific framework conditions.

### Audit and certification:

The certification is organised by the Verein für Konsumenteninformation (Consumer Information Association) and is carried out by independent auditors. After the positive evaluation the Austrian Eco-label is always awarded for a period of four years. The prerequisite of the audit is a self-evaluation of the educational institution, which is documented in an xls-protocol and constitutes the basis of the audit.

### How much does the Eco-label cost?

For the application as well as for the licence on the utilisation of the Austrian Eco-label the costs are calculated on the basis of the number of employees of the educational institution (full-time equivalents). The fees include also the audit costs.

Employees	Application fee	Annual fee
up to 9	650 €	390 €
10 to 30	950 €	550 €
as from 30	1250 €	770 €



### Awarded educational institutions are available at

[www.umweltzeichen.at](http://www.umweltzeichen.at)

For more information, please contact one of the Eco-label addresses:

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## Educational institutions use the Austrian Eco-label as a clear signal!

Customers look very closely at the diversity of educational offers. They want to have a high-quality further education in order to be able to meet the challenges of the future. With the Austrian Eco-label educational institutions signalize that they are living quality, education for sustainable development, and environmental awareness at the same time.

If educational institutions include characteristics of education for sustainable development (ESD) in their activities, and their educational programme, they do not only secure the learning success for their customers, but also the further development of their own organisation.

Characteristics of education for sustainable development are for example: Participation, multi-perspectivity, trans-disciplinarity, future-orientation, diversity of methods, problem-solving ability and the consideration of the real life of the learners.

Preventive environmental management helps on the one hand to save costs, and on the other hand to ensure that the customers and staff members feel comfortable in the classrooms. Status quo analyses make savings potentials visible. Educational institutions can reach, by means of an evaluation of their environmental situation and the educational programme, as well as of the resulting goals, and improvement measures, a considerable quality increase.

The Austrian Eco-label for Educational Institutions (UZ 302) as an initiative of the Ministry of Life thus awards educational institutions which take account of the principles of sustainable development as a guideline for a future-proof development. The criteria were worked out jointly by the Verein für Konsumenteninformation VKI (Consumer Information Association), the FORUM Umweltbildung (FORUM Environmental Education) as well as by experts from the field of adult education.

## Which prerequisites have to be complied with by educational institutions in order to be awarded with the Austrian Eco-label?

Education must be the core task of the organisation or of a delimitable partial sector and the pedagogical qualification shall be proved. The own educational programme is visible on the website of the educational institution. For this purpose there exists an ex-ante check by the Consumer Information Association.

An exclusive offer of informal education (e.g. extension institutions) Universities, or kindergartens, cannot be certified.



## How to get support for the implementation?

For the extension especially trained consultants can be selected. The Consumer Information Association informs about qualified consultants and the way to the award. The extension is financially subsidised by the governments of some Federal Provinces.

Further support is provided by annual workshops, the website [www.umweltzeichen.at](http://www.umweltzeichen.at), as well as by the "Dokumenten für den Weg zum Umweltzeichen" (documents for the way to the Eco-label).

## Which criteria and fields does the Eco-label comprise?

For the **General Criteria (GEC)** and for **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)** the following requirements are to be met.

- A **guiding principle** on the clear positioning with respect to ESD exists.
- The **competences** for the Eco-label Programme are defined.
- The measures on the Eco-label Programme are **communicated**.
- A **strategic plan of measures on the implementation of all fields of the Austrian Eco-label exists and is regularly updated**.
- **Quality management is lived** (organisation and educational programme).
- **Education for sustainable development is integrated** in the educational work.
- **Social aspects** within the educational institution and externally are taken into consideration.
- **Networking** and cooperation with partners on the topic of sustainable development and/or education for sustainable development (regionally, nationally, internationally).
- **Further measures and/or own initiatives on the fields of GEC or ESD to the extent of 8 points are carried out**.

The following criteria apply to **environmental management**:

- **Status-quo** analyses for the following fields exist: Energy and execution of construction, water utilisation, waste, procurement, and mobility management.
- **On the fields mentioned before measures and/or own initiatives at the institution's choice are implemented. Depending on the type of the site** (e.g. rented or privately owned) and number of staff members **between 15 and 30 points** can be reached for that at the first audit.
- A **continuous improvement process is being launched**.
- Educational institutions with more than 50 % of the courses at external, changing event locations must also apply a **check list on the selection of the event locations** according to ecological and social criteria.