



Eco Mark News

The Eco Mark is a voluntary program ran by Japan Environment Association. Contract fees from licensing companies and application fees from applicants cover whole budget for our activities. In this "Eco Mark News", the information related to Eco Mark Program such as newly selected Eco Mark product category and proposals for certification criteria is provided on the basis of the "Guidelines for Eco Mark Program Implementation".

Published on November 20, 2005 No. 60

Cooperation with Indonesia for their ecolabelling program operation P.7



Stakeholder meeting on the certification work (in September 2005)



Seminar for supporting the ecolabelling program operation (in October 2005)

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Annex 1: Draft of Partial Revision of Eco Mark Product Category No.103 "Clothes Version2.2", No.104 "Household Textile Products Version2.2" No.105 "Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.2"

Annex 2: Partial Revision of Eco Mark Product Category No.104 "Household Textile Products Version2.2" and No.105 "Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.2"

Annex 3: Partial Revision of Eco Mark Product Category No.118 "Plastic Products Version2.0"

(As for partial revision, excerpts of the revised sections only)

* Annexes are separate from our newsletter and please contact our office if you wish to obtain them. They are also available on our website.

Committee Report/Decisions

Eco Mark Steering Committee (15th meeting)

The 15th Eco Mark Steering Committee (Chairman: Prof. Akio Morishima, President of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies) was held on September 21, 2005 at Japan Environment Association.

At the meeting, Eco Mark Office reported the settlement of account for fiscal 2004 and status of the progress of activities for this fiscal year such as status of certification, establishment/revision of certification criteria and achievements of promotion activities and international cooperation. Deliberation on systematization of Eco Mark product categories was held and active discussion on future direction of Eco Mark was made based upon the social status quo.

Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria (38th meeting)

The 38th Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria (EMCECC, Chairman: Prof. Takashi Gunjima, Doshisha Univ.) was held on October 28, 2005 at Azabudai Seminar House. After the discussion, the following decisions were made;

Decisions

- It was decided that the draft of partial revision of certification criteria for Eco Mark product category No.103 "Clothes Version2.2", No.104 "Household Textile Products Version2.2" and No.105 "Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.2" submitted by Eco Mark Committee for Product Certification are to be open to public as shown in Table 1 (scheduled to be revised on April 1, 2006).

Also, small partial revision of certification criteria for Eco Mark product category No.104 "Household Textile Products Version2.2" and No.105 "Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.2" was approved and decided to be revised on October 28, 2005 as shown in Table 2.

- Partial revision of certification criteria for Eco Mark product category "Plastic Products Version2.0" was approved and revised on November 20, 2005 as shown in Table 2.
- The primary assessment of the proposal of two new product categories was conducted. As a result, it was decided that "Lighting Appliances using Reflectance Efficient Plates" is to be considered continuously (subjected to the secondary assessment) in the discussion of product category covering the whole lighting appliances. "Automatic Floor Cleaning Machine with Bubble Cleaning System" was not subjected to the secondary assessment.

The secondary Assessment of proposal of new product category "Reusable/Recyclable Aluminum Printing Plate for Offset Printing" was conducted but the proposal was not accepted as new product category.

Status of Certification Criteria (as of November 20, 2005)

Table 1 Announcement of Partial Revision (draft) of Certification Criteria

	Category No.	Category	Period of Open to Public	Date of Revision	Certification Criteria	Public Comments
Announcement of Partial Revision	103	Clothes Version2.2	2005.11.20 -2006.1.18	2006.4.1 (scheduled)	Annex 1	Open
	104	Household Textile Products Version2.2				
	105	Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.2				

Table 2 Partial Revision of Certification Criteria

	Category No.	Category	Period of Open to Public	Date of Revision	Certification Criteria	Public Comments
Partial Revision	104	Household Textile Products Version2.2	-	2005.10.28	Annex 2	-
	105	Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.2				
	118	Plastic Products Version2.0	-	2005.11.20	Annex 3	-

Announcement of Partial Revision (Draft) of Certification Criteria

The Draft of Partial Revision of Eco Mark Product Category No.103 “Clothes Version2.2”, No.104 “Household Textile Products Version2.2” and No.105 “Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.2”, which Requires Announcement and Public Comment

The draft of partial revision of certification criteria for Eco Mark product category No.103 “Clothes Version2.2”, No.104 “Household Textile Products Version2.2” and No.105 “Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.2”, which requires announcement and public comment are now open to public for comments from Nov.20, 2005 (Sun) to Jan.18 (Wed), 2006. Please refer to the following for submitting your comments to the draft.

Acceptance of Opinions on the Draft of Partial Revision of Certification Criteria

Please send following matters in either way;

- Address, Name, Sex, Occupation, Contact Address, Telephone number, Fax number
- Name of the certification criteria for Eco Mark product category to give opinion
- Opinions on the above proposal criteria

(1) Acceptance by mail and Fax

The above matters should be sent in writing (on A4 size paper) to the address or FAX number below by January 18 (Wed), 2006 (postmark effective).

Criteria Section, Eco Mark Office, Japan Environment Association
Prime Kamiyacho Building 2F, 1-11-9 Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0041 FAX: +81-3-5114-1257

(2) Acceptance by e-mail

The above matters should be sent to the address below by 17:00, January 18 (Wed), 2006 by e-mail. When you attach a file to e-mail, please use MS-Word, Ichitaro or Excel format.

Criteria Section, Eco Mark Office, Japan Environment Association
e-mail: ecomark@japan.email.ne.jp

Contact: Criteria Section, Eco Mark Office (03-5114-1255)

* We do not accept your opinions by telephone.

Event Information

Announcement Shopping Campaigns at Maruetsu and Ito-Yokado Stores

Eco Mark is promoting the shopping campaign to popularize the environment-conscious consumption behavior in order to cultivate the collaboration with retailers and to make consumers feel more familiar with Eco Mark products.

They have started “Environment-conscious Shopping Campaign” at all Maruetsu stores from November 1, 2005, which lasts until November 30, 2005. This is a new shopping campaign collaborating with The Maruetsu, Inc. aiming at making consumers more conscious of eco-friendly products. Target products of this campaign include not only Eco Mark products but also “HOMEeX” brand products, which have been developed by Maruetsu considering the comfort, resource saving and environment conservation.

Ito-Yokado is also introducing their “Environmentally Friendly Shopping Campaign” from October 1 to November 30, 2005 following the same campaign in summer.



Pamphlets of Maruetsu (left) and Ito-Yokado (right)

Announcement “Kyoto Environment Festival 2005” (Eco Mark Consultation Meeting will be held at the same time)

“Kyoto Environment Festival 2005” will be held at Kyoto Sogo Mihon-ichi Kaikan (Pulse Plaza) on Dec. 10 and 11. The theme of the festival is “Open the Future with “Mottainai” Spirit”. Especially this time, in response to the Kyoto Protocol, which has become effective in February 2005, they are aiming at bringing up people's consciousness and encouraging the action through the participating/experience-based events in which they can learn and think of environment with fun in order to promote the effective activity toward a society that can stop global warming.

Eco Mark Office will have a booth to exhibit panels and product samples and give attractions such as quiz. We will also hold Eco Mark Consultation Meeting there.

Date and Time: Dec. 10 (Sat), 11 (Sun)

Place: Kyoto Sogo Mihon-ichi Kaikan (Pulse Plaza)

URL: <http://www.pref.kyoto.jp/kankyo/fes/index.html>

Please apply for the consultation meeting held at above “Kyoto Environment Festival 2005” with information below by Fax by Dec. 2 (Fri). We will appreciate your kind understanding for the change of date and time or unacceptable applications depending on the application numbers and contents. Still, we look forward to many of your participation. Consultation is only in Japanese.

- 1) Name of company/organization
- 2) Names of person in charge
- 3) Phone and Fax number of attendants
- 4) What do you wish to consult about ? (Please specify the product and corresponding Eco Mark product category.)
- 5) Date and time you wish

Application: Certification Section, Eco Mark Office, Japan Environment Association Fax: 03-5114-1257

Report “Enviro-Shiga 2005”

“Enviro-Shiga 2005” was held at Shiga Prefectural Nagahama Dome from Oct. 19 (Wed) to 21 (Fri). Eco Mark Office had an exhibition booth there.

More than 200 organizations gave exhibitions at this event including local companies who are actively engaged in the environmental issue and the number of visitors reached 34,683. Many companies showed high interest in acquiring the certification of Eco Mark and we received various questions about the certification in Eco Mark Consultation Meeting, which was held during the event.

Report Eco Mark Talk Show was Held Featuring Mrs. Tomoko Nakajima at Mtsukoshi Sapporo Store

We held Eco Mark Talk Show featuring Mrs. Tomoko Nakajima at Mtsukoshi Sapporo Store on Nov. 8, 2005. This is the 3rd Talk Show following Nagoya Sakae Store and Fukuoka Store. As Mrs. Nakajima is a popular actress who was in the TV drama “Kitano-Kuni-Kara”, set in Furano, Hokkaido, many people came to the event although it was held on weekday.

Report “30th All Japan Plastic Daily Commodities Fair”

“30th All Japan Plastic Daily Commodities Fair” was held at Tokyo Big Site on Nov. 1 (Tue) and 2 (Wed), 2005. Eco Mark Office had Eco Mark Zone booth showing Eco Mark products in cooperation with Matsuda Corporation and DOW KAKOH K.K. We held Eco Mark Consultation Meeting at the same time.

At the venue, there were also exhibitions of Eco Mark products at the booth of Hanamitsu Co.,Ltd., etc. (see the pictures).

Eco Mark exhibition booth



**“Kuru-rin's Eco-all purpose bowl”
by Matsuda Corporation
(Certification No.00 118 081)**



**“Ecoplate”
by Hanamitsu Co.,Ltd.
(Certification No.00 118 120)**

Information on Eco Mark Products

A Simplified Floating Pier Using “ECOMA Wooden Deck” by ECOMA Co.,Ltd. Received “Resources and Environment Technology/System Award”

A simplified floating pier using “ECOMA Wooden Deck” manufactured by ECOMA Co.,Ltd. (Tottori Prefecture), which was certified by Eco Mark received “President of Clean Japan Center Award” from “2005 Resources and Environment Technologies/Systems Award” sponsored by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Commendation ceremony was held at Science Museum Tokyo located at Kitanomaru Park, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Japan on October 7, 2005.

“ECOMA Wooden Deck” is building material made of PP (polypropylene) recycled from PET bottle caps and car bumpers, so it has less corrosion and longer life compared to those made of general wooden material. Award was given considering the point of such characteristics lead to the reduction of waste as well as the point of less cost for maintenance and handling.



**Simplified floating pier using “ECOMA Wooden Deck”
by ECOMA Co.,Ltd. (Certification No.04 123 014)**

Also the resource-recycling model business by ECOMA, in which they collect PET bottle caps and recycle them to landscape products such as “ECOMA Wooden Bench” that was also certified by Eco Mark, was selected for “Eco-community Business for creating a recycling-based society” implemented by Ministry of the Environment.

*Website of ECOMA Co.,Ltd.
<http://www.ecomawood.jp/>

Products Using Lightweight Glass Bottle by TAKARA SHUZO is Attracting Attention!

“TaKaRa Organic Hon-mirin” by TAKARA SHUZO CO., LTD. (Kyoto Prefecture), which was certified by Eco Mark as a lightweight bottle, is attracting attention. This product uses super lightweight bottle, which is approximately 100g lighter (approximately 30%) than predecessors.

Lighter container is effective to reduce resource consumption and waste as well as the environmental burden during transportation of products, so that retailers who are actively involved in the environmental issues favor the product and increasing number of stores deal in the product since it has Eco Mark, which is popular symbol for the eco-friendly products.

Also the contents of “TaKaRa Organic Hon-mirin” were certified by OCIA (Organic Crop Improvement Association), an international organic certification organization. Furthermore the product received EPD (Environmental Product Declaration), type III ecolabelling program operated by the Swedish Environmental Management Council, for the first time in the world in food category. They announce LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) data on their website.

In addition to “Takara Organic Hon-mirin”, TAKARA SHUZO's “TaKaRa Organic Hon-ryoriseishu” is also certified by Eco Mark.

*Website of TAKARA SHUZO CO., LTD.
<http://www.takarashuzo.co.jp/>

**“TaKaRa Organic Hon-mirin”
by TAKARA SHUZO CO., LTD.
(Certification No.03 124 004)**



Application Has Started for “2nd Glass Bottle Design Award 2005” by Japan Glass Bottle Association

Japan Glass Bottle Association has started to accept the application for “2nd Glass Bottle Design Award 2005”, which commends the excellent design for the glass bottles manufactured in Japan. (Postmark on December 20, 2005 is acceptable.)

The first award was given last year, and “Aohata Super Fruity 35 180g” (Eco Mark product) manufactured by Aohata Corporation won the good design award. The functionality of its original “easy open cap”, and the environmental quality such as parts all of which can be sorted and super lightweight bottle, which is lighter than predecessors by 30%, was highly evaluated. (Actual award winner was Q.P. Corporation who is the distribution source.)

Please look up Japan Glass Bottle Association's website for details of application for “2nd Glass Bottle Design Award 2005”.



**“Aohata Super Fruity 35 180g”
(Certification No.03 124 006)**

*Website of Japan Glass Bottle Association
<http://www.glassbottle.org/>
*Website of Aohata Corporation
<http://www.aohata.co.jp/>

[For Eco Mark licensees: Send us the news of your Eco Mark products!]

Please contact Eco Mark Office (Promotion section 03-5114-1255) if you have any topic related to Eco Mark products such as your product was awarded or your product received recognition in the paper for the effect of reducing environmental burden.

Topics

Eco Mark Cooperates with Indonesia for Their Ecolabelling Program Operation Project

Eco Mark Office cooperates with Indonesia in supporting their ecolabelling program operation upon the request for cooperation from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) who provided the sponsorship. We have already started the activity by sending manpower mutually with Ministry of Environment Indonesia and organizing training course, etc. from this September. We are aiming at building the ecolabelling program smoothly through such exchange.

People-to-people exchange of this occasion can produce the concrete results including making them comprehend the future issues through the discussions regarding practical sides. It is a meaningful opportunity in which Eco Mark's experience can be applied to the overseas ecolabelling program operation.

“The 5th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry (Japan, China and South Korea)” was Held Aiming at Expanding the Environmental Market through Cooperation of Three Countries

“The 5th Tripartite Roundtable Meeting on Environmental Industry (Japan, China and South Korea)” was held on September 13 (Tue) and 14 (Wed), 2005 in Tokyo. During this round table they discussed the specific activities related to ecolabellings, green purchase and popularization of environmental management system by companies with the view toward expanding the environmental market in the area of Japan, China and South Korea through the cooperation of these countries.

They reached the agreement basically on promoting harmonization between criteria of ecolabelling programs in three countries and confirmed that they would work on several categories as a start. They also agreed on carrying on the discussion between KOECO (Korea Eco-Products Institute), CEC (China Environmental United Certification Center) and Japan Environment Association in order to organize explanatory meetings and/or exhibitions aiming at spreading each country's ecolabel.

As for green purchase, it was confirmed to establish the information exchange system and setup the contact point in each country, organize seminars and other events on the theme of green purchase using IGPN (International Green Purchasing Network), etc. for exchanging information in order to promote green purchase in harmony with one another.

Introduction of “Green Station” for Electronic Procurement Systems by Local Governments Has Become Popular

Since the Law on Promoting Green Purchasing has become effective, each local government has been carrying out the purchase of eco-friendly products. Among such movement “Green Station”, which is a general information site for Eco Mark products operated by Fine Co., Ltd. under the editorship of Japan Environment Association, is used by many organizations with the reasons such as they can see pictures of products for their green purchase.

“Green Station” has advanced the system and now they provide the product catalogue service for electronic procurement in order to facilitate green purchase more efficiently. Increasing number of local governments is using this service and it is highly appreciated by people in charge because “we don't need to spend time for selecting products and calculation”, “we can save time by sharing the product information with the company who receives the order”, etc.

Various information including the outline of electronic procurement system, examples of utilizing the system, etc. are available on the website of “Green Station” (<http://www.greenstation.net/>).

Introduction status of the electronic procurement system

Gifu Prefecture: Launched from April 2004

Fukuoka Prefecture: Launched from April 2005

Mie Prefecture: Launched from May 2005

Akita Prefecture: Will be Launched from April 2006

The Number of Visitors to “Stop Ondankan” Has Exceeded 20,000!

Since “Stop Ondankan” (Japan Center for Climate Change Actions) has opened last year on the 1st floor of the building where Eco Mark Office is also located, the number of visitors to “Stop Ondankan” has exceeded 20,000 !

“Stop Ondankan” is a facility where people from adults to children can learn about global warming enjoyably. They are aiming at creating the opportunity for public to start acting on the reduction of greenhouse gas by understanding the global warming with their brain and bodies. If you make reservation in advance, interpreters (staff) will prepare a program, which you can learn with fun.

“Stop Ondankan” is used not only by students for their integrated study at school, school excursion or homework in summer vacation, but also by companies for their training and by people participating the activities organized by consumer groups or local government. Breakdown of the visitors between adults and children is approximately half and half.

They also rent various exhibition materials such as panels and tool sets that are useful to convey the knowledge of “global warming” at events and lectures. (Please refer to the website described below for details.)

Admission to “Stop Ondankan” is free. As it is located close to Tokyo Tower, please come and visit “Stop Ondankan” when you visit Tokyo Tower.

“Stop Ondankan”

Date and Time: Tuesday to Saturday (10:00-17:00)

Admission free and you can visit any time but need to reserve in advance for the reservation program.

Place: Prime Kamiyacho Building, 1-11-9 Azabudai, Minato-ku, Tokyo

(3 minute walk from Kamiyacho Station of Metropolitan Subway Hibiya Line)

Tel: 03-5114-1284

Study scene at
“Stop Ondankan”



Website of “Stop Ondankan”

You can find various latest information such as details of reservation program, event information, details of various rental goods and/or free distribution leaflet on this website. You can search for books related to global warming, too. The website offers extensive contents so that you may also use it for your research.

URL : <http://www.jccca.org/ondankan/index.html>

Circumstance Has been Improved for the Environment Related Business and the Provision of Products and Services Result of “2004 Survey on Eco-Friendly Corporate Activities”

Result of “2004 Survey on Eco-Friendly Corporate Activities”, which was conducted by Ministry of the Environment annually, was announced recently. (Number of valid responses was 2,524 and ratio of valid respondents was 39.5%.)

41.6% of companies who responded to the survey selected “We are already in the business or providing products/services, etc.” for the question related to the environment business, which was up 9.3 points compared to the result 2 years ago and 3.0 points up compared to the last years result.

As for problems in carrying out the environment business, top answer was “The interest of consumers and users is still inadequate”, which was selected by 39.0% of companies, however, the ratio is down 5 points or more compared to the last year and the year before the last. The ratios of companies who selected “We don't know the market scale for each field”, “Related information is not available”, or “Current market scale doesn't make business sense” as problems are also decreasing.

From those results, we can see that companies have active attitude toward environment related business and/or providing eco-friendly products/services as well as the environment for the business in such field has been improving.

Companies who are in the environment business and/or provide products/services

	2004	2003	2002
Ratio of respondent companies	41.6%	38.6%	32.3%

Problems in carrying out the environment business (multiple answers accepted)

Problems	2004	2003	2002
Interest of consumers is inadequate	39.0%	44.3%	44.9%
We don't know the market scale	26.9%	29.3%	32.0%
Related information is not available	26.8%	29.7%	31.0%
It doesn't make business sense	23.4%	24.2%	24.7%

(Source: “2004 Survey on Eco-Friendly Corporate Activities” by Ministry of the Environment)

“Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World Campaign” in USA

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Energy (DOE) of USA launched “Energy Star Change a Light, Change the World Campaign” in October 2005.

Purpose of this campaign is to urge Americans to change the household lighting to more energy-efficient one in order to prevent global warming. They declared Oct. 5 as “Energy Star Change a Light Day”.

Energy Star qualified bulbs and lighting fixtures use one-third the energy of traditional lighting and last up to 10 times longer. Therefore changing lightings reduces not only the environmental burden but also the household expense.

For example, if every U.S. household replaces one incandescent light bulb with a Energy Star labeled bulb, \$600 million of energy cost and enough energy to light 7 million homes will be saved. As a result, it will prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 1 million cars.

There is a website on which everyone can declare online that they will change bulbs and lighting fixtures to Energy Star qualified ones and the government is asking many of nations for participation. You can also see the total amount of reduced energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions achieved by all participants of campaign on the website.

(URL: <http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=cal.showPledge>)

xellent Ecological Topics

In this column, we introduce the eco-friendly activities of corporations and organizations.

“Eco-point Project in Mie 2005-06 Winter” Has Started Prefectural Activity Aiming at Prevention of Global Warming through the Participation of General Household

Mie Prefecture is conducting a seasonal prefectural activity, “Eco-point project in Mie”, aiming at prevention of global warming through the reduction of energy consumption at each household. They have started winter program for this year from November 2005 and it will last until February 2006.

In this activity, each household checks their usage of electricity and/or gas during the program period and they will get Eco-Points calculated based on the amount of reduced energy consumption compared to the same month of previous year. Support fund will be provided depending on the points earned if you participate the program as a group (10 households or more). Total 165 groups (16,474 households) including residents' associations, children's associations, schools, local governments and companies participated in the summer program in 2004 and they successfully reduced 137 tons of CO₂. Total support fund of approximately 1.3 million yen was provided for them and used in the environment conservation activities, environmental study and/or group activities.

New menu was added from this season so that you can participate in the program not only as a group but as an individual. If you participate in the program as an individual, you may receive a privilege from the companies participating in the program depending on the number of Eco-Points, which are given based on the amount of reduced energy consumption. There are seven companies, AEON Co., Ltd., Gyutora, Max Value Chubu Co., Ltd., UNY Co., Ltd., Suzuki Motor Dealer Mie Co., Ltd., Honda Primo Mienaka Co., Ltd. and Mie Toyopet Co., Ltd., who are participating in the program this season and they are planning to discount the price of products/services at the stores, give stamps for the service cards, etc.

“Eco-point project in Mie” is drawing attention for being an unique activity that creates the practical effect of reducing the emission of greenhouse gas through the participation of households and companies in the region and provides an opportunity for people to be aware of the relation between their daily lives and global warming at the same time. Mie Prefecture aims at establishing this project as a continuous activity toward the prevention of global warming by calling for each household to carry on their energy-conservation effort even after the period Eco-Point program.