

The EU Ecolabel for Tourist Accommodation

## The EU Ecolabel is the official label of the European Union for environmental excellence



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#euecolabel

The EU Ecolabel is awarded to sustainable products and services that promote environmental innovation. It contributes to the EU goal of climate neutrality by **2050** and to a **circular economy**.

### Tourists are increasingly looking for environmentally friendly accommodation.

The EU Ecolabel is a tool that hotels and camping sites can use to promote sustainable development together with their employees and customers. Hotels and camping sites can use the EU Ecolabel to offer an **environmentally friendly and high-quality alternative** to standard hotels and camping sites.

### It is high time to demand something different from the tourism sector because quality and the environment really count!

Strict criteria that concentrate on the main environmental impact of services ensure that tourist accommodation certified with the EU Ecolabel **are amongst the best on the market from an environmental performance perspective**. In particular, the EU Ecolabel guarantees:

- that the tourist accommodation has an optimised environmental management system
- lower energy consumption and less CO2 emissions thanks to energy savings and the use of efficient appliances and renewable energy sources
- lower water consumption
- lower use of chemicals and pesticides
- less waste and an optimised waste management system
- lower transport-related emissions
- no food waste

### Environmental excellence can also mean excellent savings!

Tourist accommodation around the world can apply for the EU Ecolabel if they offer their services on the European market.



Information on the award criteria and how to submit an application can be found at [www.eu-ecolabel.de/en](http://www.eu-ecolabel.de/en)

## Overview of the criteria for the EU Ecolabel for Tourist Accommodation

In order to be awarded the EU Ecolabel, the tourist accommodation must comply with 22 mandatory criteria and acquire at least 20 points by fulfilling additional optional criteria. In addition, the services must comply with all of the relevant legal requirements in the country (countries) in which the tourist accommodation is located, which includes an obligation to legally employ and insure the staff.

### The EU Ecolabel guarantees

### What is required by the criteria for the EU Ecolabel?

#### An optimised environmental management system

- ✓ Defining and implementing an environmental management system
- ✓ Integrating staff and customers into the process using training courses and providing information on environmental practices
- ✓ Monitoring data on energy, water, food and product consumption per guest/night, as well as the number of cleaning agents used
- ✓ EMAS and/or ISO 14001 certification (optional)

#### Lower energy consumption and fewer CO2 emissions

- ✓ Preventative maintenance of appliances and devices
- ✓ Compliance with certain energy classes or values for water heaters, household air conditioning systems, air-based heat pumps and lighting
- ✓ Automatic switch-off systems to regulate the temperature in common areas
- ✓ No heating or air conditioning of outdoor areas
- ✓ Use of electricity that is sourced 100% from renewable energy (depending on the number of contractual partners in the region)

#### Lower water consumption

- ✓ Compliance with certain limits for the average water flow rate of taps and toilet flushes
- ✓ No daily changing of bedding and towels if not expressly requested by guests
- ✓ An optimised pool management policy, recycling of rainwater and grey water, as well as an efficient irrigation system (optional)

#### Lower use of chemicals and pesticides

- ✓ Outsourcing laundry and cleaning services to service providers who have been awarded an ISO Type I label (optional)
- ✓ Purchasing detergents and rinse-off cosmetic products with the EU Ecolabel or another Type I label (optional)
- ✓ Use of at least two products from organic farming in daily meal preparation and a ban on any use of pesticides in outdoor areas (optional)

#### Less waste and an optimised waste management system

- ✓ No single dose packaging for non-perishable foodstuffs and disposable toiletries unless requested by guests (or prescribed at a national level under certain circumstances)
- ✓ Single-use food containers may only be used if the tourist accommodation has a contract with a recycling company
- ✓ No disposable towels and bedding
- ✓ Suitable containers for waste separation in the rooms or in all hallways and corridors
- ✓ Waste separation

#### Lower transport-related emissions

- ✓ Providing information to guests on the preferable means of transport to reach the tourist accommodation
- ✓ Special agreements with transport companies and offering environmentally friendly means of transport such as bikes and electric vehicles (optional)
- ✓ No use of vehicles with combustion engines to maintain the grounds (optional)
- ✓ Offering at least two locally sourced seasonal food products at every meal and cooperation with local farmers/suppliers (optional)

#### Less food waste

- ✓ Introduction of a documented "Food service waste reduction plan"