



Press Release from Nordic Ecolabel

World's first ecolabelled fuel

Stockholm, Sweden June 25th, 2008. The Nordic Ecolabel today announced the requirements that would enable companies to apply for a Nordic Ecolabel for fuels. Fuel products that can apply for this Nordic Ecolabel, commonly known as "The Swan" in the Nordic countries, are ethanol, biodiesel, biogas and/or a mixture of these fuels.

"We want to guide the way for future alternative fuels. Nordic Ecolabelled fuels are a much better alternative to petrol than fossil fuels, with proven lower effects on the climate. We also hope to contribute to the development of more sustainable farming and increase the possibilities for better social and work conditions", says Ragnar Unge, CEO at the Swedish Nordic Ecolabel company.

The Nordic Ecolabel has requirements for the entire product lifecycle, from the raw materials to the finished product, in this case the fuel that is available at the petrol stations.

The most essential requirements for Nordic Ecolabelled fuels are:

- Reduced emissions that negatively affect global warming and climate change. An absolute threshold value to the amount of CO₂ that may be released to the atmosphere during the entire life-cycle of the fuel.
- Restrictions on the total energy used at the production stage.
- Traceability of crops and certified sustainable farming.
- Defined limitations on health effects of these fuels.

"We have chosen not to accept grains as a raw material for fuels in this first version of our requirements. There is too much uncertainty concerning the use of grains in the global food supply and its use as a fuel," comments Ragnar Unge.

Within a year the requirements for Nordic Ecolabelled fuel will be revised to allow for the incorporation of new results from technical research, certifications and EU directives.

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The Nordic Ecolabel

The Nordic Ecolabel, commonly known as "The Swan" is the official Ecolabel in the Nordic countries. The Nordic Ecolabel vision is a sustainable society with sustainable consumerism. The Nordic Ecolabel was initiated by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 1989 and today there are 66 product areas that can apply for the Nordic Ecolabel license. More information is available at www.svanen.nu.