

The Environmental Diploma



The City of Göteborg Environment Administration together with The Gothenburg Region Association of Local Authorities is engaged in the field of environmental adaptation of companies and other organisations. The purpose of this mission is to make sure that organisations establishes an environmental management system and fulfils the standards that are set. We started this work in 1995, and since then about 700 organisations in different trades have received a diploma.

Criteria's

The process of earning a diploma is divided into three different parts. The first and basic is compliance to environment legislation and regulations. The second is to implement an environmental management system, including the adoption of an environmental policy and an environmental plan. An environmental officer shall be appointed and the entire organisation must be given environmental education. The handling of chemicals must be recorded. Routines for environmental assessment on purchase must be introduced.

The last part in this process involves a number of practical actions. These are presented in a checklist, covering the following areas:

- *Premises*
- *Staff*
- *Office equipment*
- *Sales*
- *Re-use and recycling*
- *Business trips and transports*
- *Chemicals*

The actions must be fulfilled to at least 75%. The measures suggested in the checklists have direct and positive effects on the environment and are feasible in practice. Some of the measures create a "ring on water"-effect, in that they also influence other organisations, for instance deliverers of goods and services.

The environmental diploma is the official recognition that the organization have "passed the exam" in environmental adaptation. The diploma is valid for one year and can be renewed. The demands for the diploma are extended each year.

The environmental diploma is also a member of Swedish Environment Base, a national cooperation between organizations operating environmental management systems. Its main purpose is to develop a common standard.



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