



# Eco Mark News

Eco Mark News

The Eco Mark is a voluntary program ran by Japan Environmental Association. Contract fees from licensing companies 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 "General Procedures for the Eco Mark Program".

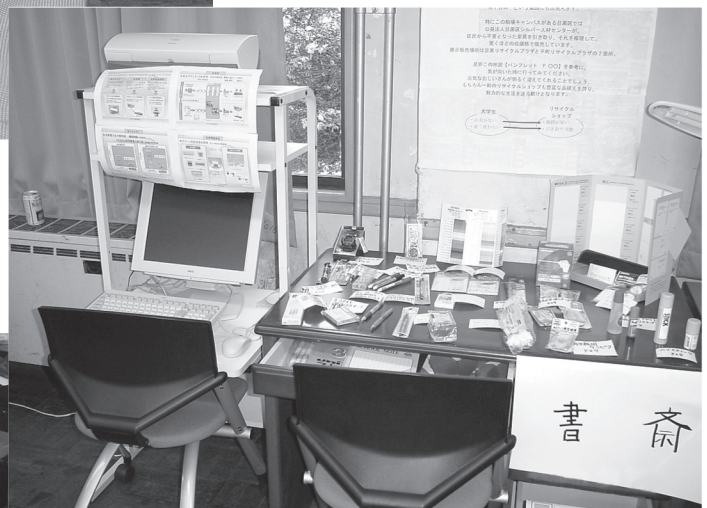
Published on December 18, 2002 **No. 38**



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<Eco Room> Bath Room



Complete view of <Eco Room>

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\* 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 Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria (20<sup>th</sup> meeting)

The 20<sup>th</sup> Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria (Chairman: Prof. Takashi Gunjima, Doshisha Univ.) was held on December 5, 2002 at the Japan Environment Association. After the discussion, the following decisions were made;

#### <Decisions>

- The 7 categories presented at the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eco Mark Committee for Establishing Category and Criteria were to be discussed continuously at the next committee.
- It was decided that certification criteria for Eco Mark Product Category No.102 “Printing Ink Version2.0”, No.124 “Glass Product Version1.0” and No.125 “Garbage Disposer Version1.0” are to be established in December 18, 2002.
- It was decided that certification criteria for Eco Mark product categories No.103 “Clothes Version2.0 (Draft Criteria)”, No.104 “Textile Products for Home Use Version2.0 (Draft Criteria)”, No.105 “Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.0 (Draft Criteria)”, No.124 “Glass Product Version1.0 (Additional Draft Criteria), which are scheduled to be established in April 20, 2003, are to be publicized.
- Partial revision of No.109 “Tile-Blocks Made of Recycled Materials”, No.120 “Printed Matter of Papers” and No.123 “Building Products Using Recycled Material”, which was presented by the Eco Mark Committee for Product Certification, was approved and decided to be revised in December 18, 2002.
- It was decided to establish working groups to consider the certification criteria for Eco Mark product categories “Furniture (tentative)”, “Engineering Product(tentative)”, “Wooden Product (tentative)” and “Paper Products (tentative)”.

## Establishment of Certification Criteria

### Eco Mark Product Category No.102 “Printing Ink Version2.0”

After the discussion, it was decided that new Eco Mark product category No.102 “Printing Ink Version2.0” will be established in December 18, 2002 as Annex 1. In association with the implementation of this criteria, existing product category No.102 “Offset Printing Ink” will be discontinued.

### Eco Mark Product Category No.124 “Glass Product Version1.0”

After the discussion, it was decided that new Eco Mark product category No.124 “Glass Product Version2.0” will be established in December 18, 2002 as Annex 2. In association with the implementation of this criteria, existing product category No.64 “Products Made from Recycled Cullet” will be discontinued. Also, it was decided that additional part to the Applicable Products is publicized.

### Eco Mark Product Category No.125 “Garbage Disposer Version1.0”

After the discussion, it was decided that new Eco Mark product category No.125 “Garbage Disposer Version2.0” will be established in December 18, 2002 as Annex 3. In association with the implementation of this criteria, existing product category No.6 “Composting Containers” will be discontinued.

## Draft Announcement of Certification Criteria

### Eco Mark Product Category No.103 “Clothes Version2.0 (Draft Criteria)”, No.104 “Textile Products for Home Use Version2.0 (Draft Criteria)”, No.105 “Textile Products for Industrial Use Version2.0 (Draft Criteria)”

New certification criteria for Eco Mark product category No.103 “Clothes Version 2.0(Draft Criteria)”, No.104 “Textile Products for Home Use Version 2.0 (Draft Criteria)”, No.105 “Textile Products for Industrial Use Version 2.0 (Draft Criteria)” were decided to be publicized as Annex 4. In association with the implementation of these criteria, existing product category No.21 “Diapers for Infants”, No.44 “Unbleached Clothes, Bed Linen and Towels”, No.48 “Cloth Shopping Bags”, No.51 “Textiles Made of Waste Fibers” and present No.103 “Clothing made from Recycled PET Resin”, No.104 “Household Textile Products Using PET Resin” and No.105 “Textile Products for Industrial Use Using Recycled PET Resin” will be discontinued. We will accept opinions against this draft announcement until February 15 (Sat), 2002. For details on submitting opinions, please refer to “Acceptance of Opinions on the Proposed Criteria of New Product Category and Discontinuance of Existing Category”.

### Eco Mark Product Category “Paints Version 1.0 (Draft Criteria)”

New certification criteria for Eco Mark product category “Clothes Version2.0(Draft Criteria)” was decided to be publicized as Annex 5. In association with the implementation of these criteria, existing product category No.33 “Paint, Coating, Waterproof Coating Containing and No Aromatic Hydrocarbon Compounds” will be discontinued. We will accept opinions against this draft announcement until February 15 (Sat), 2002. For details on submitting opinions, please refer to “Acceptance of Opinions on the Proposed Criteria of New Product Category and Discontinuance of Existing Category”.

### Eco Mark Product Category No.124 “Glass Product Version 1.0 (Additional Draft Criteria)”

New certification criteria for Eco Mark product category “Glass Product Version 1.0(Additional Draft Criteria)” was decided to be publicized as Annex 6. The is to include some products additionally to Applicable Products of Eco mark Product Category No.124 “Glass Product Version 1.0”, which is established in December 18, 2002. We will accept opinions against this draft announcement until February 15 (Sat), 2003. For details on submitting opinions, please refer to “Acceptance of Opinions on the Proposed Criteria of New Product Category and Discontinuance of Existing Category”.

#### “Acceptance of Opinions on the Proposed Criteria of New Product Category and Discontinuance of Existing Category”

##### (1) Acceptance by mail and FAX

- Address, Name, Sex, Occupation, Contact Address, Telephone number, FAX number
- Name of the proposal Eco Mark Product Prototype criterion to give opinion
- Opinions on the above proposal criterion

A summary of the above matters should be sent in writing (on A4 size paper) to Eco Mark Office, Japan Environment Association at the address below by February 15<sup>th</sup> (Sat), 2003 by mail (postmark effective) or FAX.

Japan Environment Association, Eco Mark Office  
Takagi Building 7F, 1-7-2 Toranomon, Nishi-Shimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0003  
TEL: +81-3-3508-2662 FAX: +81-3-3508-2656

##### (2) Acceptance by e-mail

- Address, Name, Sex, Occupation, Contact Address, Telephone number, FAX number, e-mail address
- Name of the proposal Eco Mark Product Prototype criterion to give opinion
- Opinions on the above proposal criterion

A summary of the above matters should be sent to the address below by 17:00, February 15<sup>th</sup> (Sat), 2003 by e-mail. When you attach a file to e-mail, please use MS-WORD, Ichitaro, or Excel format.

e-mail: [ecomark@japan.email.ne.jp](mailto:ecomark@japan.email.ne.jp)

## Partial Revision of Certification Criteria

### Eco Mark Product Category No.109 “Tile-blocks made of Recycled Materials”

In accordance with the establishment of Eco Mark Product Category No.124 “Glass Product Version1.0”, it was decided that Certification Criteria for Eco Mark Product Category No.109 “Tile-blocks Made of Recycled Materials” is to be revised on December 18, 2002 as Annex 7.

### Eco Mark Product Category No.120 “Printed Matter of Papers”

In accordance with the establishment of Eco Mark Product Category No.102 “Printing Ink Version2.0”, it was decided that Certification Criteria for Eco Mark Product Category No.120 “Printed Matter of Papers” is to be revised on December 18, 2002 as Annex 8.

### Eco Mark Product Category No.123 “Building Products Using Recycled Material”

In accordance with the establishment of Eco Mark Product Category No.124 “Glass Product Version1.0”, it was decided that Certification Criteria for Eco Mark Product Category No.123 “Building Products Using Recycled Material” is to be revised on December 18, 2002 as Annex 9.

## Advance Notice of Revision of Product Categories

The Eco Mark Classification/Standard Setting Committee decided at its 20<sup>th</sup> session held recently to review product classification regarding the following product groups: “furniture (provisional name)”, “civil engineering products (provisional name)”, “wooden products (provisional name)”, and “paper products (provisional name)”. The specific current/existing product classes scheduled to be reviewed are as follows:

- Existing Criteria in regard with “Furniture”
  - No.68 Easily Repairable Office and School Chairs
- Existing Criteria in regard with “Civil Engineering Products”
  - No.22 “Products Made from Used Tires”
  - No.26 “Products Using Solar Energy” (partially)
  - No.30 “Blast Furnace Fine Powder Slag and Blast Furnace Cement”
  - No.37 “Drainage Fixtures for Rainwater Dissipation”
  - No.56 “Recycled Paving Materials”
  - No.65 “Building Materials of Fly Ash”
- Existing Criteria in regard with “Wooden Products”
  - No.111 “Board Made of Wood or the Like”
  - No.115 “Wooden Products Using Waste Wood, Thinned-out Wood, Small-diameter Logs, etc.
- Existing Criteria in regard with “Paper Products”
  - No.112 “Paper Stationery”
  - No.113 “Packaging Paper”
  - No.114 “Paper Packaging Materials”

## Information

### Issuance of free magazine, "FeEEL" - to be produced with editorial assistance from the Eco Mark Office

A free magazine "FeEEL", produced in association with the Eco Mark Office, is about to be launched. As an ecological issues magazine designed for a non-technical readership, "FeEEL" will carry personality interviews and other articles with popular appeal, and will promote a new "ecology lifestyle". It is our hope that this magazine will encourage teenagers to 30s to consciously utilize environmentally friendly products, including those bearing Eco Marks. We plan to distribute this magazine through fast food shops and cafes in the major cities. For detailed information, please see our homepage: "FeEEL on WEB" <<http://channel.slowtrain.org/feeel>>

#### <Guidance>

"FeEEL" invites enterprises that endorse the purpose of the magazine to support its publication by placing advertising. We hope that you will take advantage of this advertising medium as an effective way of demonstrating your organization's commitment to protection of the environment.

#### For information on advertising in "FeEEL", or circulation inquiries, please contact:

Mr. Nagashima, "FeEEL" Editorial Department,  
"Eco Mark PRESENTS FeEEL Secretariat",  
Works m Bros Co., Ltd.  
EL Prement Shinjuku RM410, 6-7-1, Shinjuku,  
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022  
TEL.: 03-3356-2391 FAX: 03-3356-2242 (G4)  
E-Mail: [feel@wsmb.jp](mailto:feel@wsmb.jp)

### Green Purchasing Campaigns in Tokai 3 Prefectures and 1 City

A major "Green Purchasing Campaign" is scheduled for January-February, 2003, in Gifu, Aichi, and Mie Prefectures, and Nagoya City, sponsored by the prefecture and city governments, and the Chubu chapter of the Japan Chain Store Association. As a supporter of the "Buy Green" cause, the Eco Mark Office will also participate in the campaign. This campaign is designed to highlight to consumers the benefits of Green Purchasing in refuse reduction and resource conservation, by promoting purchases of "refill products" at stores in these Prefectures and the city which are affiliated with the Chubu Chapter of the Japan Chain Store Association. This multi-market campaign, reaching beyond the boundaries of a single Prefecture, will be the first of its kind. Various industrial groups, including soapmakers and wholesalers, have offered their cooperation. It is hoped that this will be the first of more and bigger campaigns.

Campaign period: Mid-January 2003 through mid-February 2003.

Locations: Stores in the three Tokai Prefectures and Nagoya which are affiliated with the Chubu Chapter of the Japan Chain Store Association.

Inquiry contact: Environment-Friendly City Promotion Section, Environmental Bureau, Nagoya Municipal Government  
Phone: (052)972-2661 (Secretariat, the Executive Committee for Green Purchasing Campaign in 3 Prefectures and 1 City in the Tokai area)

### The 6<sup>th</sup> Eco Mark Consultation Meeting Held on February 21, 2003

We will hold an "Eco Mark Consultation Meeting (the 6<sup>th</sup>)" on application at Osaka ATC Green Eco Plaza on February 21 (Fri), 2003. If you wish to attend the consultation, please apply for Eco Mark Office with following information by fax. The deadline is February 7.

Please understand that we will accept early arrivals when applications exceed our capacity. Consultation is only in Japanese.

Date and Time: Feb 21, 2003 (Fri) 1) 11:00-12:00  
2) 13:00-17:00

Place: ATC Green Eco Plaza (Eco Mark Zone in Green Eco Plaza, 11F, ITM Bldg., Asia and Pacific Trade Center 2-1-10, Nanko kita,

Suminoe-ku, Osaka-shi)

Manner: Individual consultation on application  
(Only products fall on product categories)

Consultation Fee: Free (Staff from Eco Mark Office will consult with you.)

- 1) Company/Organization
- 2) Names of attendants
- 3) Phone number of attendants
- 4) What do you wish to consult about?  
(Please specify the product and questions.)

<To apply>

FAX: 03(3508)2656

Contact Mr. Sazanami, Certification Section

## Topics

### Report on Global Ecolabeling Network (GEN) Annual General Meeting and Conference

Eco Mark Office has supported Global Ecolabeling Network (GEN) activities and services by providing one member of the Board of Directors (and Treasurer), and through its General Affairs Office. GEN held a Conference and Annual General Meeting in Taiwan from Tuesday, October 29 to Saturday, November 2. This conference focused on such themes as “Government Green Procurement and Ecolabeling” and “Trade and Ecolabeling”. Eco Mark Office delivered presentations on “Mutual Recognition Among 4 Asian Countries” and other topics, and exhibited Eco Mark-certified products in the “Ecolabeled Products Around the World” display in the lobby. At the Annual General Meeting, cooperation among members, cooperation and appeals to other international organizations, and GEN long-term strategies, etc. were discussed. Eco Mark Office reported on partial mutual recognition for “Copiers” with Nordic Swan, and made a presentation and proposal on a global common chemical database. For more details, please visit the GEN website <<http://www.gen.gr.jp>>.

### Report on Exhibition Booth at Biwako Business Messe

The Eco Mark Office had a booth to exhibit materials and panel, Green Station and etc. at the above environmental fair held in Nagahama Doom from November 6 (Wed) to 8 (Fri). 37 thousand people came to the fair and about 1000 visited our booth in 3 days.

### Over 300 Subscribers of E-mail Eco Mark News

The subscribers of E-mail Eco Mark News (Japanese version only), which we have started from August 10, exceeds 300 now. From our website <<http://www.jeas.or.jp/ecomark>>, you can register at any time. Eco Mark Office would like to continue to provide timely information.

### Announcement of “5<sup>th</sup> Green Purchasing Award”

Group recipients of the “5<sup>th</sup> Green Purchasing Award” were announced on Oct. 10, 2002.

- Award Winners:
  - <Minister of the Environment Prize> Daimatsu Doken Co., Ltd.
  - <Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Prize> Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.
  - <Awards>
    - Administrative sector: Fukui Prefecture.
    - Enterprise sector: Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.
    - Small and medium enterprise sector: Daimatsu Doken Co., Ltd.
    - Private group sector: NPO/Enterprise Children’s Environmental Activity Supporting Association.
  - <Commendation> The Shiga Bank, Ltd.
  - <Awards for Excellence> Kokuyo Co., Ltd., Tokyo Gas Co., Ltd., Yuto Shoji Co., Ltd., NPO/Enterprise Recycler Activity Organization, Kita-ku.
  - <Examiner’s Special Prize> Office Chonai Group.

Of these award recipients, Daimatsu Doken Co., Ltd., of Osaka, was recognized for its environmentally friendly activities. The company attained ISO14001 in the fields of demolition and civil engineering, and published photographs of its demolition activities on the web. The company received Eco Marks in the Product Type No. 56 “Recycle Paving Materials” (Recognition No.: 00 056 001) for its “Eco Rubble”, based on recycled concrete blocks, which are construction sub-products.

## Excellent Ecological Topics

The "Eco Mark News" introduces eco-friendly activities of corporation and organizations based on their contributions.

### A Student Environmental Group "Kankyo Sanshiro" Exhibited and Eco Room

From Nov. 22 to Nov. 24, "Kankyo Sanshiro", a student environmental group from Tokyo University < homepage: <http://www.sanshiro.ne.jp> > exhibited the "Eco Room" as part of the university student body's Komaba Festival. The Eco Room was a model room which demonstrated the daily use of environmentally friendly products by an environmentally conscious person, based on the concept that an environmentally considerate lifestyle can be hassle-free and easy to achieve. The exhibit incorporated re-used furniture borrowed from the Meguru Recycle Plaza, together with environmentally friendly products, including several bearing Eco Marks. (See cover: page 1). The complete Eco Room comprised five sectors: bathroom, living room, study, kitchen, and dining room; and some ingenious examples of environmentally friendly products were a big hit with visitors. The student group is conducting a variety of conservation activities within the university, as well as carrying out positive research/proposal projects with regard to real-life environmental problems. Working on the premise that the major reasons for poor environmental protection practices by consumers were (1) their lack of a clear perception of what constitutes an environmentally conscious lifestyle; and (2) their qualms about an environmentally conscious lifestyle requiring compromise, the group proposed a demonstration of environmental consideration in action, through the medium of the Eco Room. The editor asked project leader Mr. Yuki Murai for his observations on the event

Mr. Murai:

"We set out to emulate an "environment agency", advancing the proposition of an environmentally conscious lifestyle to consumers in visual form, by bringing together environmentally friendly products offered by various companies, just as a travel agency sells a travel package by coordinating various services (air travel, accommodation, etc.) provided by different companies. We believed we could arouse the ecological consciousness of consumers and foster stronger motivation for environmentally responsible practices by showing a number of products in a real-life situation, rather than by displaying individual products separately. This was a novel approach, but, going by the obvious enjoyment of most visitors, we are convinced that there is a demand for environmentally friendly products. However, it's not enough just to buy such products; people also need to reconsider their future lifestyles. That said, these are early days, and we believe that this change should be a step-by-step process. Using the Eco Room exhibit as a first step into the future, we hope to make steady progress in a variety of areas, from here on in."



Members of the student environmental group "Kankyo Sanshiro."

### Cutting Trees Leads to Forest Conservation

"Cutting trees" herein refers to the process of thinning out overcrowded forest trees at a certain stage of growth, in order to provide the remaining trees with sunlight, water, and space, and to nourish their growth. This activity is highly important in developing healthy forests. Some of the important effects of resultant forest conservation include absorption of CO<sub>2</sub>, conservation of eco-systems, protection of watersheds and of the living environment, and promotion of cultural functions, such as recreation. The Forestry Agency will be conducting activities to promote greater use of thinning and utilization of thinned trees, in collaboration with the Central Council for Promotion of Thinning, etc., during October and November, the peak period for felling activity. This will be designated the "tree-cutting reinforcement period". Because many man-made forests have reached the thinning-required stage, an emergency five-year tree-felling program, involving systematic rearrangement of 1.5 million hectares of forests over five years from fiscal 2000, has been implemented, with the object of growing forests that can consistently deliver desirable, multi-purpose utility. It is important to use trees from thinning effectively, but currently, only about half of such cut trees are utilized, with the rest left to rot. In the Eco Marks movement, effective utilization of cut trees for products is recommended under product type No. 115: "Wooden Products Using Waste Wood, Thinned-out Wood, Small-diameter Logs, etc.". In line with this social trend, a "Thinning trees and cut tree utilization competition" was implemented in fiscal 2000, in order to promote fresh, positive efforts for the practices of thinning and utilization of cut trees. During this fiscal year, many enterprises and organizations were commended for their related efforts. The Forest Agency Director's General Prize was awarded to the Kisen Area Forest Cooperative in the category of "forest development through tree thinning", and to Hida Forest Co., Ltd. in the category of "practical utilization of cut trees". How about considering the use of timber from cut trees in your offices and homes, along the lines of the aforementioned efforts? We at the Eco Mark Office of the Japan Environment Association use cut tree products in our furniture: reception counter (Japanese cypress), office work desktops (Japanese cedar); and as decorative laminated sheets on partitions (Japanese cypress); a small step in the right direction.

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Office-Takagi Bldg. 7F, 1-7-2 Nishishimbashi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0003 Japan  
Certification section TEL: +81-3-3508-2653 FAX: +81-3-3508-2656  
Criteria section/Promotion section TEL: +81-3-3508-2662 FAX: +81-3-3508-2656  
Homepage: <http://www.jeas.or.jp/ecomark/english>  
e-mail: [ecomark@japan.email.ne.jp](mailto:ecomark@japan.email.ne.jp)



This publication uses Eco Mark certified paper and certified printing ink.