

Ethical Company Organisation

Setting the benchmark for Corporate Social Responsibility



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Top 100 – the UK's most responsible companies

The newly formed **Ethical Company Organisation** (E.C.O) today announces the first 100 Companies invited to join its ethical company accreditation scheme, illustrating which Companies and Brands are overall most responsible to the **environment, people and animals**.

In order to create the definitive responsible company list, **E.C.O research** accessed over 50,000 records from as far back as 1989. The independent study (using gold standard researchers from ECRA) spanned News Reports, Court Reports, Public Complaints, and campaign information from non-government organisations like Friends of the Earth and Christian Aid.

The 100 companies are as follows:-

Abbey National; Aga Rayburn; Alliance & Leicester; Aqua Pura; Asics; Atmos; Authentic Bread; Baby Organix; Bagpuss & Clangers Soft Toys; Bahlsen (biscuits); Ballygowan; Bandai (toys); Baumatic Ltd; Bio-D; Biofa Natural Paint; Bradford & Bingley; Brio & Plan Toys; Britannia Building Society; Brother UK; Cafedirect; Casa Paints; Castle Dairies; Caurnie Soap Company; Chelsea Building Society; Cheshire Building Society; CIS Environ Trust; Clipper Teas; Co-op Bank; Co-operative Group; Coventry Building Society; Cream O'Galloway; Doves Farm Foods; Dualit; Dyson; Ecology BS; Ecos Paint; Ecotricity; Ecover; Epson; Equal Exchange; Faith in Nature; Gas 210 ECO & Quinta (boilers); Glenmorangie; Good Energy; Granovita; Green & Blacks; Green Baby; Green Energy 100; Green People; Hemp Garden; Hi Tec; Highland Spring; Hipp Organic; Holz Toys; Honesty; Hornby Plc; Infinity Foods; Innocent Drinks; Jonathan Crisp; Jordans; Karrimore; Kettle Foods Ltd; Kingfisher Toothpaste; Lego UK Ltd; Livos Paints; Lowe Alpine; Lush; Medivac; Mornflake Oats Ltd; Mother Hemp Ltd; Naturally So; Neal's Yard; New Covent Garden Soup; Northern Rock; Nutshell Natural Paints; Pascoe's; Percol; Playmobil; Prima & Akai; Puma; Rachel's Organic Dairy; Ricoh; Rocombe Farm; Sauflon Pharmaceuticals; Smile; Suma Wholefoods; The Body Shop; The Day Chocolate Company; The Redwood Wholefood Co. Ltd; Tom's of Maine; Traidcraft; Triodos; Vango; Viridian; Vitabiotics Ltd; Vivid Imaginations; Walkers Shortbread Ltd; Whitworths; Whole Earth; Yeo Valley Organic.

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Today, E.C.O is commencing a series of meetings with several of the top 100 - including Abbey National, Café Direct, Green Baby, Innocent Drinks, Yeo Valley, Hip Organic and Good Energy Ltd at Electric House, 191 Portobello Road, London. Prior to the official launch day, 10 of the 100 had already officially signed up to E.C.O company accreditation – the others are expected to follow in the next few weeks.

Chairman of the Ethical Company Organisation, William Sankey says:-

'Our research covers 15 categories under the headings of People, Animals and Environment and clearly shows which companies are most responsible overall. The good news is that there is a whole new attitude emerging within a group of progressive companies, determined to act responsibly in everything they do. These are the companies who have passed the initial E.C.O ethical company audit, and are eligible to join the E.C.O accreditation scheme'

Good Energy Chief Executive Juliet Davenport says,

'We fully support E.C.O's aims of promoting a responsible corporate attitude towards people, animals and the environment. Good Energy recognise consumers want greater transparency and clearer information when making purchase decisions.'

About E.C.O – see www.ethical-company-organisation.org

E.C.O officially launches on 9th March 2004, within Fair Trade Fortnight. E.C.O Ltd is a member of the Social Enterprise Coalition. E.C.O aims to promote a universally responsible corporate attitude towards people, animal welfare and the environment. E.C.O uses independent researchers from the Ethical Consumer Research Association. (E.C.O also publishes the best-selling ethical company reference guide – The Good Shopping Guide - see www.thegoodshoppingguide.co.uk)

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