

# Ethical Company Organisation

Setting the benchmark for Corporate Social Responsibility



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## The next 80 ethical companies.

The Ethical Company Organisation (ECO) today announces the next 80 companies invited to apply for official ethical company status. The Ethical Company Organisation independently certifies companies in relation to several key areas including Animals, People and the Environment. An invitation to apply for such accreditation implies a first class ethical record, pending full certification.

The latest Companies invited to apply include: Aga Raeburn, Alliance & Leicester, Asics, Bahlsen, Belling, Cafédirect, Casio, Chelsea Building Society, CIS Environ Trust, Co-Op Bank, Dell Computers, Dellungo, Derbyshire Building Society, Dyson, Ecotricity, Ecover, Green & Blacks, Lowe Alpine, Percol, Pure, Royal & Sun Alliance, The Body Shop, Triodos Bank and Viridian.

The Ethical Company Organisation's accreditation scheme officially launched in March 2004 and the first 20 companies to gain Ethical Company Organisation accreditation status were Brother UK, the Caurnie Soap Company, the Ecology Building Society, Eskimo Media, Ethical Investments, Good Energy, Green Energy, Green People, Green Stationery, Hemp Garden, Honesty, Innocent Drinks, Investing Ethically, Medivac, Mooncup, Naturally So, Organico, Redwood Wholefoods, Skiano Atmos, Tropical Wholefoods & Natura Organics.

The Ethical Company Organisation's accreditation process researches each company's record within over 50,000 records from as far back as 1989. The independent study spans News Reports, Court Reports, Public Complaints, and campaign information from non-government organisations like Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and Christian Aid.

**Director of the Ethical Company Organisation, William Sankey:**

*'If Companies want to convincingly demonstrate a first class ethical record across the broadest range of criteria then the Ethical Company Organisation's accreditation process is the simple solution'*

*'We are delighted with the overall ethical high-standing and openness of those 20 companies which we have so far accredited – and we are looking forward to working with this next group of 80 – which appear to complete the UK's top 100 ethical companies'*

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## Good Energy Ltd Chief Executive Juliet Davenport:

*'With an abundance of different green tariffs and so much information available, the electricity market can be very confusing; so we feel that it is very important for consumers and businesses to be able to refer to a source of independent accreditation which helps them make a fully informed decision on what they are buying. Good Energy recognises the importance of corporate transparency and wholeheartedly supports the Ethical Company Organisation's aim to promote a more responsible corporate attitude towards people, animals and the environment.'*

## Brother UK Ltd CSR Director Mike Dinsdale:

*'As a global business, we were very pleased to gain Ethical Company Organisation accreditation status to demonstrate a real point of difference over our competitors. To have this fact independently endorsed by The Ethical Company Organisation is very useful for consumers wanting to make the best ethical shopping choices'*

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**About The Ethical Company Organisation**– see [www.ethical-company-organisation.org](http://www.ethical-company-organisation.org)

The Ethical Company Organisation aims to promote a universally responsible corporate attitude towards people, animal welfare and the environment.

The Ethical Company Organisation publishes the world's best-selling ethical company reference guide book – *The Good Shopping Guide* (4<sup>th</sup> edition out Summer 2005).

In June 2005, The Ethical Company Organisation will officially launch GOOSHING – set to become the world's leading ethical shopping site with over 250,000 products featured and ranked. The beta version at [www.gooshing.co.uk](http://www.gooshing.co.uk) has already experienced over 500,000 unique visitors.

The Ethical Company Organisation is a member of the Social Enterprise Coalition and a partner share holder in Fair Trade's Café Direct.

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**To apply for accreditation**, contact The Ethical Company Organisation on 0207 229 2115 or [info@ethical-company-organisation.org](mailto:info@ethical-company-organisation.org)

**For more press information** contact The Ethical Company Organisation on 0207 229 1894 / [info@ethical-company-organisation.org](mailto:info@ethical-company-organisation.org) or Craig Morrison at 86 PR on 0207 229 1958 / [craig@86.co.uk](http://craig@86.co.uk)