

Commission announces winners of environmental management awards

Five organisations have won the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) Awards for excellence in environmental management. The winners were announced at an awards ceremony this evening in Brussels. The awards recognise outstanding achievements in environmental management. This year 32 organisations from 13 EU Member States were nominated. The 2008 awards focused on the theme of curbing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing energy consumption and increasing energy efficiency.

The five winners were selected by a jury of 6 EMAS experts. The results are as follows:

Large organisations: Milko, Sweden

Milko is one Sweden's largest dairies and in 2006 set a target of cutting CO2 emissions by 25% within 10 years. The company has won the award for its energy-efficiency measures, such as the use of district heating and renewable energies including biogas.

Medium organisations: Imperbel S.A. / Derbigum, Belgium

Imperbel/Derbigum is a leading manufacturer of waterproofing membranes and rooftop innovation engineering. The company has won the prize for its commitment and performance in achieving energy consumption reductions and cutting CO2 emissions by 30%.

Small organisations: Pangea Green Energy s.r.l, Italy

Pangea specialises in the production of green energy from renewable sources including biogas and participates in Clean Development Mechanism projects in developing countries. The company won the award for its contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from its activities.

Micro-organisations: The Evangelische Kirchengemeinde, Kreuzäcker, Germany

The church, which has a congregation of 1550 and a staff of 6, won the prize for its impressive energy saving initiatives, including its use of renewable energy, such as photovoltaic technology that converts sunlight into electricity and wood pellet heating.

Public organisations: Kirklees Council, UK.

Kirklees Council in West Yorkshire, England, has been recognised for its commitment to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and for its activities and performance in energy efficiency, which include the installation and monitoring of Smart meters which should save more than 1000 tonnes of CO2 by 2010.