

## Environmental Certification Schemes for Businesses

This lists a number of environmental certification schemes available in New Zealand. This does not attempt to evaluate the schemes. Other schemes exist but these are the main ones that cover general business processes.

### Envirostep - <http://www.eco-verification.med.govt.nz/envirostep>

Envirostep is a free, entry-level environmental management tool for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) in New Zealand. It was developed by the Ministry of Economic Development in collaboration with a number of other contributors (see panel to the right), and provides users with:

- An environmental performance score & profile.
- Recommendations (to reduce operating costs, environmental impacts & risk).
- An action plan (to implement selected recommendations).
- Over 300 links to other environmental tools, service providers & further information.

SMEs using Envirostep will get a better understanding of their environmental issues and opportunities, and the practical steps they can take to manage them. It should also help SMEs progress to more sophisticated tools and certification schemes should they so wish.

As with any self-assessment, the results are only as good as your answers, and your score may not be recognised by other organisations unless it has been independently validated.

### Cleaner Production – [www.businesscare.org.nz](http://www.businesscare.org.nz)

Cleaner Production is a methodology developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and is promoted by Christchurch City Council in their Target Zero initiative for businesses. Other councils that have Cleaner Production initiatives are Waitakere City Council and Auckland Regional Council.

Business Care ([www.businesscare.org.nz](http://www.businesscare.org.nz)) supports, promotes and encourages the implementation of Cleaner Production within New Zealand. Their website states:

“Cleaner production is one of the most cost-effective environmentally responsible practices that businesses can adopt. It aims to reduce the adverse effects that production and service activities can have on the environment. Put simply, cleaner production means:

- using energy, water, materials and staff time efficiently
- preventing or minimising waste
- environmentally sound products and services
- higher profits and lower costs

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Cleaner production encompasses both waste minimisation and sustainable management.”

The website has lots of success stories of how this programme has helped other New Zealand businesses save money and become more sustainable.

### **Enviro-Mark – [www.enviro-mark.com](http://www.enviro-mark.com)**

Enviro-Mark® NZ is a business standard and is marketed and supported in New Zealand by Landcare Research, the nationally recognised certification authority. Enviro-Mark®NZ is an internet-based five-step certification programme that gives businesses a tool for managing their own operations and supply chain. It covers health, safety and environmental management and is suitable for all sizes and types of organisations. Enviro-Mark®NZ offers personal, expert advice about environmental management, practical "how to" information, recognised environmental certification through Enviro-Mark®NZ, and contribution towards programme costs.

### **EnviroSmart -**

**[www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/sustain\\_business/enviromark/envirosmart/](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/sustain_business/enviromark/envirosmart/)**

An initiative that was focused on improving the environmental performance and resource efficiency of businesses throughout New Zealand. It was promoted by city, district and regional councils throughout New Zealand. Recruitment to this initiative has now closed and no further applications are being accepted.

### **Green Globe - [www.greenglobe.org](http://www.greenglobe.org)**

This is the worldwide benchmarking and certifications program to the travel and tourism industry. Five standards exist: Company; Community/Destination; International Ecotourism; and Design & Construct.

A commitment to the environment can attract new customers, reduce costs, and builds company, community and investor confidence.

The program includes two steps: the first is benchmarking and the second is certification. Standard benchmarking indicators and checklists include: Total Waste production and Waste Recycling.

Examples of local companies that are involved are:

Awaroa Lodge (Abel Tasman); Flying Kiwi Wilderness Exhibitions (Stoke); Arrow Motel Apartments (Tahunanui); and Kaikoura District Council.

### **ISO 14001 – [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)**

Standards for Environmental Management. They measure what the organisation does to:

- minimise harmful effects on the environment caused by its activities, and to

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- achieve continual improvement of its environmental performance.

### **The Natural Step – [www.naturalstep.org.nz](http://www.naturalstep.org.nz)**

From the website ..."The Natural Step is an international non-profit organisation that has been working since 1988 to accelerate global sustainability. Using the internationally endorsed and tested Natural Step framework, which is based on sound science, systems thinking and practical business decision-making, we help companies, non-profit organisations, individuals and communities lead the transition to an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable future."

### **For further information on commercial recycling in the Nelson/Tasman region contact:**

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Waste Education Services (WES) is a free programme for schools and businesses funded by Tasman District (TDC) and Nelson City (NCC) councils.

WES offers information and education to assist schools and businesses to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. TDC and NCC provide this service through a contract with the Nelson Environment Centre. A team of waste educators are working with schools and businesses in Tasman and Nelson to set up or provide advice on systems to Reduce, Re-use and Recycle their waste.

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