ECOPORTS

Green your Port, Join EcoPorts!

EcoPorts has become the main environmental initiative of the European port sector. The aim of EcoPorts is to increase awareness about environmental challenges, deliver compliance with legislation and to demonstrate a high standard of environmental management. Even if the EcoPorts members must be seen as the driving forces of the network, it is clear that the added value of EcoPorts reaches far beyond the network. EcoPorts helps European ports to be at the forefront, to take initiatives to protect the environment, improve public health and address the challenges of climate change. The EcoPorts tools are available to ports and terminals outside Europe through the ECO Sustainable Logistic Chain Foundation (ECOSLC, www.ecoslc.eu).

EcoPorts was initiated by a number of proactive ports in 1997 and has been fully integrated into the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO) since 2011. EcoPorts has provided a system developed by ports, for ports, specifically designed to put ESPO’s policies into practice by encouraging the free exchange of experience on environmental issues among its members.

EcoPorts aims to strengthen its network and assist more European ports in being prepared to face the environmental challenges of tomorrow.

The ability to say that Dover is an EcoPort allows us to demonstrate to all our stakeholders that we are being proactive on environmental issues.

Port of Dover
United Kingdom

Isabelle RYCKBOST
Secretary-General of ESPO

ECOPORTS TOOLS

The well-established EcoPorts tools actively assist ports in their environmental management. Becoming an EcoPorts member is easy and entirely free of costs. You can register on the EcoPorts website and fill out the Self Diagnosis Method (SDM) questionnaire. Answering the questions of the SDM is your ‘passport’ to the EcoPorts network.

Once you become a member of the network, you have access to all the EcoPorts tools: the comparison of your port’s SDM score against the European benchmark, the SDM Review and the Port Environmental Review System (PERS). All of these tools are optional, but highly recommended if you want to improve your environmental performance.

Benefits of the SDM Review:
• Receive a gap analysis of your port’s environmental performance
• Receive a SWOT analysis of your port’s environmental performance
• Receive expert’s advice and customised recommendations according to your port’s top priorities

Benefits of comparing your SDM score with the average:
• Identify strengths and weaknesses in relation to the European average
• Increase protection of the environment

Benefits of using SDM:
• Obtain the EcoPorts status and be part of a wide network
• Share experiences and best practices within the network
• Increase visibility and reputation
• Raise awareness on environmental protection
• Access the other EcoPorts tools

Benefits of comparing your SDM score with the average:
• Self-evaluate your port’s environmental performance
• Identify strengths and weaknesses in relation to the European average
• Establish priorities for action

Benefits of obtaining PERS certification:
• Develop a full port environmental management system
• Establish priorities for action
• Receive a SWOT analysis of your port’s environmental performance
• Receive expert’s advice and customised recommendations according to your port’s top priorities

Port of Dover
United Kingdom

JOIN THE NETWORK

The completion of the Self Diagnosis Method (SDM) is the ‘passport’ to the EcoPorts network. SDM is a checklist that allows you to identify and reflect on the environmental risks in your port. Aggregated and anonymised data provided by EcoPorts members are used to build and update the sector’s benchmark of performance in environmental management.

Benefits of using SDM:
• Establish priorities for action
• Increase protection of the environment
• Identify strengths and weaknesses in relation to the European average

Once you have completed the SDM questionnaire, you can apply to obtain a comparison of your port’s score with the European average, the comparison will be included in the SDM Review.

If you submit your SDM for an analytical review, an expert will subject your port’s environmental management to a gap analysis with regards to established environmental management standards and a detailed SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).

The Port Environmental Review System (PERS) doesn’t only incorporate the main general requirements of recognised environmental management standards (e.g. ISO 14001), but also takes into account the specificities of ports. PERS builds upon the policy recommendations of ESPO and groups ports into objective groups to aim for its implementation in independently reviewed by Lloyd’s Register.

The PERS checklist and PERS certificate have a validity of two years. The scores of the PERS comprise an overview of the extent of implementation of sustainability initiatives.