
PRESS RELEASES

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Ecolab Named One of the World's Most Ethical Companies for Fifth Consecutive Year

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Ecolab Inc. has been recognized by Ethisphere Institute as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for the fifth consecutive year. The designation is awarded to companies that have leading ethics and compliance programs.

"We are extremely honored to receive this award again this year," said Douglas M. Baker, Jr., Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ecolab. "Our long-term success depends on grounding our leadership, our associates and our culture in ethical business practices. Strong business ethics are critical to delivering profitable, sustainable growth, and running a successful global business."

This is the fifth year Ethisphere, a think tank dedicated to the creation, advancement and sharing of best practices in business ethics, corporate social responsibility, anti-corruption and sustainability, has published the World's Most Ethical Companies rankings, which appear in *Ethisphere* magazine's Q1 issue.

Ethisphere said it reviewed thousands of companies and evaluated a record number of applications utilizing its propriety methodology through in-depth research and multi-step analysis, naming 110 companies that surpassed their industry peers to this year's World's Most Ethical Companies list. The 2011 list features companies in 38 industries including 43 companies headquartered outside the United States.

The methodology for the award ranking includes reviewing codes of ethics, litigation and regulatory infraction histories; evaluating the investment in innovation and sustainable business practices; looking at activities designed to improve corporate citizenship; and studying nominations from senior executives, industry peers, suppliers and customers. For more details, visit www.ethisphere.com.

With sales of \$6 billion and more than 26,000 associates, Ecolab Inc. (NYSE: ECL) is the global leader in cleaning, sanitizing, food safety and infection prevention products and services. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to foodservice, food and beverage processing, healthcare, and hospitality markets in more than 160 countries. More news and information is available at www.ecolab.com.

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Ecolab Inc.

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