

## PRESS RELEASES

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### Ecolab Again Named One of the World's Most Ethical Companies

*Ethisphere recognizes Ecolab for sixth consecutive year*

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- For the sixth consecutive year, Ecolab Inc. (NYSE: ECL) has been recognized by Ethisphere Institute as one of the world's most ethical companies. Ethisphere awards the annual designation to companies that maintain the highest ethical standards.

"Our company is guided by a strong sense of purpose and a commitment to our values," said Douglas M. Baker, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer. "We strive to do what's right, what's fair and what's honest while achieving our purpose -- to make the world cleaner, safer and healthier -- protecting people and vital resources."

This is the sixth year Ethisphere Institute has published the World's Most Ethical Companies rankings. Ethisphere is a leading international think tank dedicated to the creation, advancement and sharing of best practices in business ethics, corporate social responsibility, anti-corruption and sustainability.

"A strong ethical foundation is a competitive advantage, and Ecolab recognizes the important role corporate responsibility plays in improving its bottom line," said Alex Brigham, executive director, Ethisphere Institute. "Ecolab's inclusion as a World's Most Ethical Company demonstrates its industry-leading commitment to ethics and dedication to integrity."

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 information, visit [www.ethisphere.com](http://www.ethisphere.com).

#### **About Ecolab**

With 2011 pro forma sales of \$11 billion and more than 40,000 employees, Ecolab Inc. (NYSE: ECL) is the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services that provide and protect clean water, safe food, abundant energy and healthy environments. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to the food, energy, healthcare, industrial and hospitality markets in more than 160 countries. For more Ecolab news and information, visit [www.ecolab.com](http://www.ecolab.com).

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