

PRESS RELEASES

Sep 30, 2015

Ecolab is First in the World to Receive Alliance for Water Stewardship Standard Certification

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Ecolab Inc., the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services, in partnership with the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS), today announced that its manufacturing plant in Taicang, China, is the first site in the world to be independently certified under the AWS's global standard for water stewardship.

The [AWS Standard](#) is an ISEAL-compliant framework developed to promote sustainable freshwater use and to evaluate water stewardship practices, developed through a four-year, multi-stakeholder, water roundtable process that included diverse business, public sector and civil society interests from around the world. This globally consistent and locally adaptable standard outlines a set of water stewardship criteria and indicators for how water should be stewarded at a site and catchment level in a way that is environmentally, socially and economically beneficial.

"Water stewardship is vital to both a healthy environment and a healthy economy," said Ecolab Chairman and CEO Douglas M. Baker, Jr. "We help more than one million customers around the world reduce their water footprints, and believe it's essential that we also leverage this expertise to advance water stewardship within our own operations."

Ecolab is one of nearly 30 leading organizations from across sectors to advance the efforts of AWS to protect the world's limited freshwater resources.

"This first certification is a critical milestone as we pursue our mission to promote responsible use of freshwater. It is fitting that Ecolab is the first company to achieve certification, given their leadership in driving improved water use and their consistent support of the aims of AWS. We congratulate Ecolab and look forward to the next steps of our collective journey towards sustainable use of freshwater," said Adrian Sym, executive director, Alliance for Water Stewardship.

Ecolab is a founding partner of AWS and was one of the first companies to pilot the AWS Standard. Ecolab partnered with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to field test and implement the framework at its Taicang manufacturing plant, which is located in a water-sensitive area in the Taihu basin of the Yangtze region.

This work resulted in a systematic approach to water stewardship that included implementation of water reduction projects within the facility as well as initial collective action with other water users and stakeholders, including local authorities, operating within the same catchment.

"We've seen the AWS Standard help businesses translate global commitments into on-the-ground action, which includes working with others in the basin on shared water challenges," said Karin Krchnak, director of freshwater programs at WWF. "As the first to become certified, Ecolab is paving the way for others to use the AWS Standard as a road map towards water stewardship for people, profits and nature."

Ecolab's facility in Taicang opened in August 2012 and is the company's largest site in the Asia Pacific region. The facility produces a complete portfolio of cleaning, sanitizing, food safety and infection prevention solutions for customers in a wide range of growing industries, including: food and beverage production, food retail, hospitality, healthcare and dairy, meat and poultry processing.

Certification of Ecolab's Taicang site to the AWS Standard was undertaken by TÜV Rheinland, an independent third-party AWS-accredited organization responsible for assessment of Ecolab's compliance with the AWS Standard. In September 2015, TÜV Rheinland certified the Taicang manufacturing plant as "AWS Core Certified." To learn more about Ecolab's Taicang facility and the certification process, visit [Ecolab.com](#).

About Ecolab

A trusted partner at more than one million customer locations, Ecolab (ECL) is the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services that protect people and vital resources. With 2014 sales of \$14 billion and 47,000 associates, Ecolab delivers comprehensive solutions and on-site service to promote safe food, maintain clean environments, optimize water and energy use and improve operational efficiencies for customers in the food, healthcare, energy, hospitality and industrial markets in more than 170 countries around the world. For more Ecolab news and information, visit [www.ecolab.com](#). Follow us on Twitter [@ecolab](#), Instagram at [Ecolab_Inc](#), [LinkedIn](#) or Facebook at [facebook.com/ecolab](#).

About the Alliance for Water Stewardship

The Alliance for Water Stewardship is a partnership of global leaders in sustainable water management who are dedicated to promoting responsible use of freshwater that is socially, economically and environmentally beneficial. AWS drives collective responses to shared water challenges through its stakeholder-endorsed AWS International Water Stewardship Standard. AWS's Founding Partners are American Standard, CDP, Centre for Responsible Business, Centro del Agua para America Latina y el Caribe, Ecolab, European Water Partnership, Fundacion Chile, Fundacion FEMSA, Future500, General Mills, The Gold Standard Foundation, Hindustan Unilever Foundation, Inghams Enterprises, Marks & Spencer, Murray Darling Basin Authority, Nestle, Pacific Institute, Sealed Air, United Nations Environment Programme, the UN Global Compact's CEO Water Mandate, The Nature Conservancy, The Water Council, Veolia Environment, Water Environment Foundation, Water Footprint Network, Water Stewardship Australia, Water Witness International, WaterAid and WWF, info@allianceforwaterstewardship.org.

(ECL-C)

View source version on businesswire.com: <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20150930005348/en/>

Ecolab Media Relations

Roman Blahoski, 651-250-4724

MediaRelations@Ecolab.com

Source: Ecolab Inc.

[Back to Press Releases](#)