



Eco Labels Galvanize Trade Unions For Climate & SCP Actions

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This release - PDF: http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpO_O2Ae.EN.pdf

A trade union-associated eco-label which currently appears on over half the computer monitors sold in the world today has now extended its reach to over 7000 products yielding estimated cuts of more than 25 million tons of climate-damaging CO2 emissions per year. See http://www.global-unions.org/pdf/ohsewpO_O2Ae2.EN.pdf

Originally developed in 1992 by the Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO), the eco-labels have become world leading trend-setters for meeting the UN's production and consumption (SCP) goals, set at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).

Managing Director Jan Rudling says the *TCO Development Unit* was set up to handle the exponential growth of its labels and for the unique purpose of negotiating precise contracts with over 100 companies and manufactures to deal with what he refers to as the "4E's": Ergonomics, Ecology, Energy and Emissions. Many of the companies are well-known brand names such as Hewlett Packard,



Fujitsu Siemens, Philips and Samsung:

<http://www.tcodevelopment.com/> .

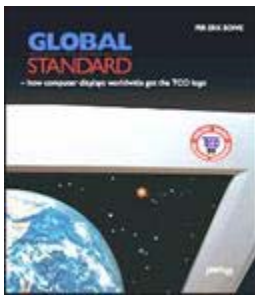
The TCO labels are now a visible trade-mark on computer monitors, printers, keyboards, headsets and office furniture as proof that key standards have been verified for the uses of chemicals, energy efficiency, radiation exposures, health and safety and ergonomics.

In a presentation delivered at a *Global Eco Labelling Network* conference last week in Sweden a representative for the 168 million-member International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) said the TCO label had become vital to its promotion of **Workplace Assessments**, whereby employers and trade unions engage in joint workplace agreements to meet sustainable development goals. The ITUC said the labels have proven

trustworthy for what they claim and can save time and costs for decision-makers in determining better production tools and methods, across borders and sectors, world-wide.

With branch offices in Sweden, Taiwan, Austria, Germany, Norway and USA Rudling says the TCO Development Unit aims to step up efforts to promote the labels among trade unions and workers because they create a vital link between the products that their employers should be buying at the workplace and what workers are increasingly purchasing for themselves and also promoting in their own communities, creating a ripple effect beyond measure for the environment and sustainable development.

Over the years Rudling says the TCO has evolved from promoting stricter power-down and standby requirements for computers to its newer TCO'03 label, used in connection to the U.S.- based 'Energy Star' programme for testing energy in computer active mode. "We need smarter equipment such as automatic power-down for TV's if nobody is watching and we need to replace unnecessary travel with low power consumption telephone/video conferencing."



Labeling Strategies for Sustainable Development

A leading trade union champion for sustainable development last Spring published a book about groundbreaking work conducted in Sweden which proved that labeling can be highly-effective as a tool for sustainable development.

Per Erik Boivie served for many years as head of the TCO development unit. In his time, he oversaw an ambitious project to persuade computer companies to adopt the TCO label for their products, as well as a number of other sustainable development initiatives.

His recent book, "The Global Standard – how computer displays worldwide got the TCO logo", traces the breakthrough which resulted in computer displays around the world adopting the TCO logo as the symbol of quality, and user safety and promote the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The book is published by his company, Boivie Arbetsplatsutveckling in cooperation with the TCO and Vinnova (Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems at http://www.amazon.com/Global-standard-Boivie-Per/dp/9185343439/ref=sr_1_1/002-5233570-8219244?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1176528023&sr=1-1)

The Trade Union Sustainable Development Unit (SDUnit) maintains country-by-country profiles on the progress made by governments along SCP and sustainable development

indicators, including climate change and energy:
<http://www.tradeunionsdunit.org/profiles/profiles.php>

A Workplace Framework for SCP & Sustainable Development

“Workplace Assessments serve Sustainable development goals”

- * **Occupational & Public Health**
- * **Energy & Water**
- * **Agriculture & Biodiversity**
- * **Poverty & Equality**
- * **Employment .**
- * **Equality & Access**
- * **Participation & Training**



Agenda 21 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) have created a framework for the development of workplace-based partnerships for employee-employer assessments in workplaces. Trade unions have argued this could involve millions of workers in bringing about concrete changes to a broad range of production and consumption issues, including social and health matters. Such assessments are also meant as a springboard to change consumption and behaviour patterns in the personal and community life of workers.

The Workplace Assessment is a process whereby trade unions and employers in one or several worksites of a sector or region together assess workplace performance according to agreed checklists of environmental, resource, occupational, health or social criteria. The results of such assessments can lead to joint plans of action to identify and resolve problems ranging from the simple (e.g., workplace water, energy & resources wastes) to the complex (e.g., improving workplace conditions, employment issues or matters related to social security, public health or technology matters) and be of short duration or stretch over several years to fulfill complex objectives.

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