Guidelines for using the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in marketing materials for certified services
Congratulations on your certification. You have gone through great efforts to obtain a Nordic Swan Ecolabel for services as well as for buildings and investment funds.

These guidelines have been created to help you as a brand owner and licence holder – as well as your agency or other partners – to use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in marketing materials for your certified services(s).

This document is intended as a guide and reference tool. With the help of the table of contents, you can find the sections that are most relevant to you.

By using the Nordic Swan Ecolabel actively in your marketing communication, you not only get an official stamp of proof of your environmental efforts: you also get an effective marketing tool with a brand that enjoys high credibility and recognition, helping you to strongly position your service(s) towards consumers and professional buyers.

Note!
This guideline covers marketing materials for services with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel. Specific guidelines are available for:

- Use of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark on product packaging and services.
- Marketing materials for products with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel

These guidelines are updated on a regular basis and replace earlier versions. The current version of the guidelines can be found at www.nordic-ecolabel.org/regulations. Marketing materials that have been approved under previous versions can be used and distributed as long as stock is available.

Show consideration for the environment if you print this guide.
If you have questions or need help, please contact your local ecolabelling organisation or visit their website:

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Introduction: Make the most of your certification

This section provides information and inspiring examples of how to use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in marketing.
1.0 Make the most of your certification

1.1 A strong and effective marketing tool

A strong guide for more environmentally friendly choices
There is a high brand awareness among Nordic consumers and professional buyers when it comes to the Nordic Swan Ecolabel. They trust the label and use it to help navigate in a complex area because they know the Nordic Swan Ecolabel helps them make better environmental choices.

Businesses and policymakers face great opportunities to meet the needs of customers and consumers, and by providing more sustainable services, businesses are greatly rewarded in terms of a supportive customer base.

The rules are few and simple, and the benefits are many when you tap into the strong position the Nordic Swan Ecolabel holds among the Nordic consumers and professional buyers.
1.0 Make the most of your certification

1.1 Nordic consumers want to act

Nordic consumers are highly aware of the impact that their individual consumption has on the environment, and although the issues of climate change and environmental degradation can feel overwhelming, most Nordic consumers feel hopeful about the future.

They believe that they can make a difference by making better decisions and choosing better products and services. They want to be a part of the solution – to be better consumers by supporting brands and companies that offer sustainable services.

What they are lacking is easy access to attractive sustainable products and services.

Looking for national data?
We conduct research on Nordic consumers and sustainable living on a regular basis. To learn more about our consumer research, please contact the marketing team at your local ecolabelling organisation. See contact information on page 3.

* Nordic Consumer Survey on assignment from Nordic Ecolabelling (IPSOS 2019)
** Nordic Swan Ecometer 2018 (CINT)
† Share of consumers answering that they sometimes, often or always look for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel when choosing services

93% of Nordic consumers know the Nordic Swan Ecolabel

70% of Nordic consumers believe that the Nordic Swan Ecolabel makes it easier for them to make environmentally friendly choices

60% of the consumers who know the label, look for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel when choosing products

71% of Nordic consumers are convinced that the choices they make regarding the environment makes a difference

70% say that their choices are not as environmentally friendly as they would like them to be

66% experience that it requires an extra effort to find environmentally friendly products
1.0 Make the most of your certification

1.2 A little inspiration:
Examples of marketing materials

Use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in marketing materials for your certified services

On the following pages you will find marketing examples from brand and companies who have used the Nordic Swan Ecolabel actively in their marketing and communication materials.

In section 3 of this guide you will find specific guidelines on how to use the mark correctly in various marketing materials.
1.0 Make the most of your certification

1.2 Examples of marketing materials: Ads and billboards
1.0 Make the most of your certification

1.2 Examples of marketing materials:
SoMe
1.2 Examples of marketing materials: Websites
1.0 Make the most of your certification

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Visibility materials
1.0 Make the most of your certification

1.2 Examples of marketing materials: Brochures
1.2 Examples of marketing materials: Press releases

Svanemærket vuggestue: God og grøn start for de mindste

22.2.2021 12:56:23 CET | Mobilhouse A/S


Proget har gennemgået en certifieringsproces som giver det vuggestue bruger op til at anses som et svanemærket byggeri i kategorien huse, lejligheder, skoler og daginstitutioner.


- Det vidner om, at Horsens Kommune ønsker at passe godt på de yngste borgere – både ved at tænke bæredygtighed ind i bygningens arkitektur, og ved at tilbyde en vuggestue, der lever op til skrappe krav, som gavner personale og børn i hverdagen. Og så vidner det om, at disse krav være at opfylde.

https://via.ritzau.dk/pressemeddelelse/svanemaerket-vuggestue-god-og-gron-start-for-de-mindste?publisherId=13405297&releaseId=13613365
General mark guidelines

This section explains the important rules when using the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and messaging related to the certification.

General guidelines
• Four simple steps to get you started

Use of the mark
• Artwork checklist
• Key benefits of following the guidelines
• The golden rule
• Logo guidelines
• Naming of services with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel
• Messages related to the Nordic Swan Ecolabel

Responsibilities
• Disclaimer, responsibilities and misuse information
2.0 General mark guidelines

Share these guidelines with your agency to ensure correct use.

2.1 Four simple steps to get you started

1. Get the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark artwork files
As a licensee or brand owner with an active certification for the Nordic Swan Ecolabel you will get access to download the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark in various file formats. The Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark for services should always be used with a descriptive subtext. You can find the descriptive subtext in the criteria document in the section: “Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of services”.

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark is available in five Nordic language versions and an English version for international use. You can find the latest version of the mark at the website of your local ecolabelling organisation. See information on page 3.

2. Check that your eight-digit licence number is valid
Each Nordic Swan Ecolabel licence is assigned an eight-digit licence number.

The licence number must appear on the website for the certified service. To increase transparency and credibility, we recommend that you also include the licence number on your in marketing materials, where applicable (e.g. in small print as a footnote).

Note!
Remember to check the criteria document for your specific service group to see if there are special requirements on the use of the mark and to find the specific marketing claims you can make.

3. Place the mark correctly in your marketing material
Follow the rules in these guidelines when you place the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark in marketing material.

Note!
Remember to check the criteria document for your specific service group to see if there are special requirements on the use of the mark and to find the specific marketing claims you can make.

4. Check that use of the mark is in compliance with the guidelines
Use the checklist on page 17 to ensure that the artwork complies with the guidelines.

If in doubt:
Send the proposed artwork to the marketing team at your local ecolabelling organisation. See the contact information on page 3.

Note!
Always consult the marketing team of your local ecolabelling organisation if you produce marketing materials for use outside the Nordics.

Attention
Do not use the mark if your licence has expired!
The right to use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel expires at the end of the licence period, when the licence becomes invalid or when the relationship between the licensee and the ecolabelling organisation ends in any other way.
2.2 Language version of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel

National or international mark?
The Nordic Swan Ecolabel is available in five language versions and an international version for use outside the Nordic countries.

For marketing in the Nordic countries, we strongly recommend using one of the national marks as the brand name “Svanemærket/Svanenmärkt/Svanemerket...” is very strong and has a high level of recognition in all Nordic countries.

Outside the Nordic countries, we recommend using the international mark.

Note!
The licence number does not have to be part of the mark when used in marketing materials, but to increase transparency and credibility, we recommend that you include the licence number in marketing materials eg. in small print as part of a footnote or in the service description. The licence number must be easily found on your website. See page 29.
2.3 Checklist for marketing materials

Use this checklist to ensure that your marketing material are in compliance with these guidelines.

Artwork approval
If this is the first time you are using the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in your marketing materials or if you are in doubt as to whether your marketing material meets the guidelines, we recommend that you – or your agency – send the artwork for approval to the marketing team of your local ecolabelling organisation. See contact information on page 3.

Note!
Always consult the marketing team of your local ecolabelling organisation if you produce marketing materials for use outside the Nordics.

Checklist for marketing materials

1. **Choose the mark in your preferred language version.**
   We recommend that you choose the UK version for international materials, and your local language version for national materials, as the recognition of the local language brand name is much higher than the UK brand name.

2. **Follow the golden rule.**
   Balance the prominence of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark and your own logo and identity. It must be clear, which service(s) are ecolabelled, and who the sender of the communication is. See the golden rule on page page 20.

3. **Only use the mark in relation to ecolabelled services.**
   If not all services in the marketing material are ecolabelled, it must be clear, which services are ecolabelled and which are not. The Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark must never be used in a way that is confusing or misleading to the recipient.

4. **Consider including the licence number.**
   We recommend that you consider to include the licence number in your marketing material to support your claims and to build credibility and increase transparency. Licence number can be placed as a foot note, where applicable.

5. **Place the mark on your website.**
   In order for customers/consumers to identify an ecolabelled service, the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark should be placed on the service page on your website with a clear explanation of which – if not all – services are ecolabelled, and with the licence number prominently listed in the description of each ecolabelled service. If all your services are ecolabelled, you can place the Nordic Swan Ecolabel on the front page of your website.

6. **Never alter the Nordic Swan Ecolabel.**
   Never alter the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark or attempt to make your own mark.

7. **Choose ecolabelled materials and printing companies when possible.**
   Check if the printing company, you are using for your marketing materials has a licence and whether the materials can be a Nordic Swan Ecolabelled printed matter – if so, use their licence number on your printed materials.

Share your marketing materials with us!
We are always happy to receive marketing materials from you. We collect all the good examples of how the Nordic Swan Ecolabel is used for marketing purposes - as a source of inspiration and for use in cases.
2.4 Key benefits of following the guidelines

By using the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in your company’s marketing and communication, your service will be positively associated with making better choices for the environment.

With the Nordic Swan Ecolabel as proof of your environmental efforts, you will get an effective marketing tool with a brand that enjoys high credibility and recognition, and helps you to strongly position your service(s) towards consumers and professional buyers.

By launching this guide, our ambition is to make it easier for you as a licensee to create attractive and business-driven marketing and communication with the environment as a means of competition.
2.5 The golden rule

The Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark must never be used in a way that is misleading and/or creates doubt or confusion about which services are ecolabelled. This is essential to keeping the credibility of the mark and the value of the brand.

Consider two things when producing your material:

**#1** Always balance the prominence of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark and your own logo and identity.

It must be clear, who the sender of the communication is.

**#2** The placement of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark depends on whether all services in the marketing material are ecolabelled or only some of them.

In both instances, in order to increase transparency and credibility, you may consider to include the licence number, e.g. in a footnote or in a detailed service description. You can also choose to use the mark with the licence number below.

**Option A**
If all services in the marketing material are ecolabelled, your certification can be the main focus of the advertisement and, you can use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark in all relevant aspects, where you see fit.

**Option B**
If only some services in the marketing material are ecolabelled, the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark must be placed immediately next to the ecolabelled services only.

**Note!**
The Nordic Swan Ecolabel for services should always be used with a mandatory descriptive subtext.
2.0 General mark guidelines

2.6 Use of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark

We recommend to use the green mark with black or white top text. If placed on a photo or patterned background you can use the mark with a white circle behind for better visibility.

Go to the website of your local ecolabelling organisation to download files and general guidelines for how to work with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark:

**DK:** ecolabel.dk/retningslinjer

**SE:** svanen.se/regelverk

**NO:** svanemerket.no/regelverk

**FI:** joutsenmerki.fi/saannot

**IS:** svanurinn.is/fyrir-leyfishafa

**INT:** nordic-ecolabel.org/regulations

**Note !**
Always use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark as provided by your local ecolabelling organisation. Never make your own.
2.0 General mark guidelines

2.6.1 Using the Nordic Swan Ecolabel without toptext or without subtext

In the Nordic markets, where brand recognition is high, the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark can be used in e.g. ads, billboards and commercials without the descriptive subtext or the brand name top text.

However a few simple rules apply:

- Using the Nordic Swan Ecolabel without top text or subtext is only allowed in the Nordic countries.

- All services shown in the marketing material must be certified with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel.

- Both the descriptive subtext and the brand name top text must appear close to the mark – e.g. as an integrated part of the headline or marked in bold in a sub headline.

For materials used in the Nordic markets only!

For materials used outside the Nordic markets!

Outside the Nordic countries, marketing materials should always use the mark with top text – even if the brand name is also included in the headline/subheader.
When naming your ecolabelled services, it is important that there is a clear distinction between the service brand and the Nordic Swan Ecolabel.

You can
...refer to the service(s) as being certified with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel,

You cannot
...use the term Nordic Swan or Swan (in any language) as an integrated part of a service brand or sub-brand name.

√ Use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in sentences in your service description:

(Service name) is certified with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel

(BRAND) is our range of services with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel

- Don’t:

Swan (BRAND) Service

(Brand) Swan Service
2.0 General mark guidelines

2.8 Messaging

How to communicate the benefits of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel
Stay true to the facts about the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and the claims for your specific service category.

You can find information about the claims in the criteria document for your specific service group which can be downloaded from the website of your local ecolabelling organisation.

Need help?
If you have doubts about how to best communicate the benefits of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in your marketing material, contact your local ecolabelling organisation for input and guidance, see contact information on page 3.

Example of claims for cleaning service

Certified quality cleaning
Nordic Swan Ecolabel

- We only use ecolabelled cleaning detergents
- We work systematically to ensure high quality and ongoing dialogue
- We limit our use of chemicals for the benefit of the environment
- Our staff are thoroughly trained and covered by collective agreement
- Our vehicles have a low fuel consumption
- 50% our fleet is electric

CLEANING
COMPANY LOGO

Cleaning service
2.0 General mark guidelines

2.9 Disclaimer, responsibilities and misuse information

Disclaimer
These guidelines have been developed by:
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fnm@nordic-ecolabel.org
www.nordic-ecolabel.org

Nordic Ecolabelling or the local ecolabelling organisation grants permission to use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in marketing materials from licensees and brand owners that have a valid licence.

The right to use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in marketing material is only granted for the services listed in the licence certificate. Use of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in communication of services not listed in the licence certificate is not allowed.

These guidelines are updated on a regular basis and replace earlier versions. The current version of the guidelines can be found at www.nordic-ecolabel.org/regulations.

Responsibilities
The licensee or brand owner is the sole responsible for marketing and communication material. Also, it is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure that the marketing and communication material comply with national standards and legislation.

The licensee or brand owner is responsible for ensuring correct use of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel, and for ensuring that subtext, licence number and claims are accurate.

Nordic Ecolabelling does not take responsibility for any other marks or claims on the service or service.

Misuse of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel
In case of misuse of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel, the following steps will be taken by the local ecolabelling organisation in the country where the misuse has taken place.

The misuse will be reported and logged into a register by the national ecolabelling organisation.

• The company misusing the Nordic Swan Ecolabel will be contacted – to investigate the misuse.

• Corrective actions will be required within a time frame. The time frame will depend on the type of misuse, the media/channel, and on the severity of the misuse.

• Follow-up actions will be conducted to ensure that the misuse has stopped or been corrected.

For more information please see section 2.7 in "Regulations for the Nordic Ecolabelling of Products".

Intellectual property rights:
The Nordic Swan Ecolabel name and mark is a trademark belonging to the Nordic Ecolabelling organisations.

Unauthorised use of the mark is prohibited and will be treated as an infringement of intellectual property rights.
This section provides specific guidelines for a wide range of different marketing materials.

3.1 Ads, billboards/outdoor
3.2 Commercials
3.3 Websites
3.4 SoMe
3.5 Brochures/catalogues
3.6 Promotional items
3.7 Other visible materials
3.8 Trade shows and fairs
3.9 Press releases
3.10 Annual reports/CSR reports
3.0 Use of mark in marketing material

3.1 Ads and billboards/outdoors

You can use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in all types of ads - in magazines, newspapers, as advertorials and on billboards.

Note!
Placement of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel depends on whether all services in the ad/outdoor are ecolabelled or only some of them.

It must be unmistakably clear which services are ecolabelled.

• Always comply with the golden rule on page 20.
• Use the Checklist for marketing materials on page 18 to make sure you comply with the guidelines.

Please contact your local ecolabelling organisation if in doubt. See contact info on page 3.
3.0 Use of mark in marketing material

3.2 Commercials

You can use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in all types of commercials and service videos – for TV, cinema, websites or social media.

**Note!**

Placement of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel depends on whether all services in the commercial are ecolabelled or only some of them.

**It must be unmistakably clear which services are ecolabelled.**

- Always comply with the golden rule on page 20.
- Use the checklist for marketing materials on page 18 to make sure you comply with the guidelines.

Please contact your local ecolabelling organisation if in doubt. See contact info on page 3.
3.0 Use of mark in marketing material

3.3 Websites

Placement of mark in your own website
When the Nordic Swan Ecolabel is used on your website, it must always be accompanied by the mandatory subtext from the criteria document.
You can place the mark in e.g., a subpage describing your certified service and highlighting the benefits of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel - with a link to your national ecolabelling organisation.

Your licence number must be easily found on your website. We recommend writing it in your service description.

Note!
Placement of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel depends on whether all services on the website are ecolabelled or only some of them.

It must be unmistakably clear which services are ecolabelled.

- Always comply with the golden rule on page 20.
- Use the checklist for marketing materials on page 18 to make sure you comply with the guidelines.

Please contact your local ecolabelling organisation if in doubt. See contact info on page 3.
3.4 Social Media

Social media is one of the most powerful tools to engage today’s consumers. Make sure to use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark to attract the attention of the growing share of environmentally conscious companies and consumers.

Connect with us on social media!

• Remember to use national and international hashtags (see next page for overview). In that way we can follow your activities and interact to create more interest around your posts.

• You are welcome to post and link to relevant articles published by your local ecolabelling organisation.

• Follow us on SoMe (see overview on page 31) - and find inspiration for your own postings on our websites.

Remember:

It must be unmistakably clear exactly which service(s) are ecolabelled.

Therefore, placement of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark depends on whether all services in the post are ecolabelled or only some of them. See page 20 for guidelines.
When making posts about your certified services, you are welcome to link to relevant articles on our national ecolabel websites.

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram - and get inspiration for your own posts or share our posts when they are relevant to your service messages and environmental sustainability focus. Remember to “tag” your local ecolabeling organisation so we can help like and share your posts. Follow the guide on which tags to use for which markets.

3.4 SoMe: Guide to use of #

INT: #NordicSwanEcolabel
DK: #Svanemærket
SE: #svanenmärkt
N: #svanemerket
SF: #joutsenmerkki
IS: #svansmerkt

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3.0 Use of mark in marketing material

3.5 Brochures, catalogues, fact-sheets or sales material

Brochures and sales materials are often media where consumers and customers spend more time engaging with brands. Use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark to document your environmental efforts, for instance information about your Nordic Swan Ecolabel certification in a box next to your services.

In both instances, we recommend to have a page or section in the material with more information about the benefits of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and your ecolabelled service(s).

Please consider!
Walk the talk: Show your environmental responsibility by choosing a printing house certified with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and make sure that your printed matters have the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark. Visit the website of your local ecocertification organisation to find a certified printing company.

Please note:
It must be unmistakably clear exactly which service(s) are ecolabelled. Therefore, placement of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark depends on whether all services in the brochure are ecolabelled or only some of them. See page 20 for guidelines.
3.0 Use of mark in marketing material

3.6 Promotional items

Promotional items can be a strong and enduring communication channel, as they are often used for a longer period – both internally in your company and by the customers, you give them to. When promoting your certified service(s) on promotional items, the rules are simple:

- You should always use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel with the descriptive sub text.
- You should always balance the prominence of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and your own logo/brand.

If you produce promotional items, show your environmental responsibility by choosing promotional items with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel when available (eg. pen, T-shirt, cup, work clothes or shopping bag). Visit the website of your local ecolabelling organisation to find certified suppliers and materials.

Please consider!
Walk the talk: From an environmental perspective, less is more, so please always consider the value carefully before producing promotional items.
3.0 Use of mark in marketing material

3.7 Other visibility materials

Remember that visibility materials such as vehicles, window streamers and flags also can be good communication channels for promoting your environmental efforts.

⚠️ Remember:
• You should always use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel with the descriptive sub text.
• You should always balance the prominence of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and your own logo/brand.

Please consider!
Walk the talk: Show your environmental responsibility by choosing visibility materials with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel when available. Visit the website of your local ecolabelling organisation to find certified suppliers and materials.
3.8 Trade show & Fairs

Use facts and core messaging about the Nordic Swan Ecolabel, when you communicate your certified services on trade shows and fairs.

In addition to the visibility materials on the fair, we recommend to include more information about the benefits of your ecolabelled service(s) in e.g. brochure materials etc.

Please consider!
Walk the talk: Show your environmental responsibility by choosing items with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel for your fair and booth when available.
Visit the website of your local ecolabelling organisation to find certified printing suppliers and visibility materials. Prioritise materials that can be used multiple times.

Remember:
It must be unmistakably clear exactly which service(s) are ecolabelled.
Therefore, how you can use the mark in a booth and/or on a trade show item, depends on whether all services displayed are ecolabelled or only some of them. See page 20 for guidelines.
3.9 Press releases

Don’t forget to use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel in your PR activities. It is a competitive advantage as well as documentation for your environmental efforts – no matter whether the efforts relate to a newly certified product, meeting an increased demand for your environmentally friendly products or entering new markets or addressing the needs of new target groups.

If you want to use the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark in a press release, the rules are simple: The press release must refer to your ecolabelled service(s). Furthermore, you must...

1. clearly state which service(s) is/are certified and,
2. list your licence number in a footnote in the press release.
3. attach the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark to your press material.
4. send the press release for approval at your local ecolabelling organisation.

Additionally, we recommend to include:

- A fact box on the benefits of your ecolabelled services - either in the press release or on a sub-page on your own website.
- A link to the website of your local ecolabelling organisation so the recipient can find more information about the certification.

Need input for your press release? Positive effects from the certification such as increased sales, a more efficient service delivery process or increased employee satisfaction could provide interesting angles for your press release.

Contact us if you want to cooperate or need input or a message relating to your certification.
3.10 Annual/CSR reports

Annual reports/CSR reports

Investors, customers and consumers look to annual reports for accounts of companies environmental efforts.

We recommend to have a page in your annual / CSR report with information about the benefits of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and your ecolabelled service(s).

Please consider!

Show your environmental responsibility by choosing a printing house certified with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel and make sure that your printed matters have the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark. Visit the website of your local ecolabelling organisation to find a certified printing company.

Remember: It must be unmistakably clear exactly which service(s) are ecolabelled.

Therefore, placement and usage of the Nordic Swan Ecolabel mark in annual reports depends on the messages communicated. See page 20 for guidelines.