

A large, abstract green graphic on the left side of the page, featuring overlapping curved shapes in various shades of green, creating a dynamic, layered effect.

**DEKRA's
step-by-step guide
to ISCC certification**





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Introduction

Whether to comply with regulations, take advantage of government subsidies or meet ever-higher customer expectations, there are multiple reasons why organizations want and/or need to demonstrate that they are doing business sustainably. Independent certification offers a credible way of doing this. But which certification scheme should you choose? The voluntary International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) scheme is a particularly good option for companies involved in waste-to-energy, biogas, hydrogen or recycling. DEKRA, one of the world's leading independent certification bodies, supports the ISCC certification process across Europe. With its extensive network of experienced auditors and partnerships with local experts, DEKRA ensures a seamless and efficient certification experience tailored to your business needs, no matter where you operate.

Companies around the world are under growing pressure to demonstrate that they meet the highest standards of environmental and social responsibility due to ever-tighter legislation. Moreover, leading businesses are increasingly recognizing the benefits of voluntarily taking things a step further. By going beyond mere compliance and proactively improving the environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects of their operations, they create a competitive advantage. A strong and clear positioning on sustainability shows that they take customers' and consumers' concerns seriously. This enables them to build better long-term, trust-based relationships with customers, command higher prices, and seize new business opportunities, such as by tapping in to new markets.

Across Europe, governments are increasingly prioritizing sustainability and offering various incentives to encourage businesses to adopt environmentally responsible practices. To access these benefits, organizations must demonstrate credible efforts to reduce their environmental impact.

For companies engaged in waste-to-energy, biogas, hydrogen, or recycling, the ISCC scheme provides an excellent framework. It enables businesses to substantiate their commitment to sustainability, meet regulatory requirements, and strengthen their position as leaders in sustainable operations.





What is ISCC?

The International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) is a voluntary standard covering the sustainable and responsible production of biomass from agriculture, forestry and aquaculture, biofuels, recycled carbon-based materials and other renewable raw materials.

Voluntary standard

The ISCC is an independent multi-stakeholder initiative and leading certification system supporting sustainable, fully traceable, deforestation-free and climate-friendly supply chains. The scheme is aligned with the UN Global Compact and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ISCC organization's mission is based on the conviction that companies can accelerate the transition to a circular economy through the utilization of recycled materials or materials derived from biological waste. This helps to protect forests, carbon-rich soils and biodiversity, and contributes to waste reuse.

Supply chain transparency

Obtaining ISCC certification enables companies to solidify their sustainability claims by providing transparency into their supply chains, proving that the raw materials used are sustainable and fully traceable. As of May 2025, ISCC had issued more than 13,900 valid certificates in total, to a wide range of organizations operating in over 130 countries. These organizations are active across various sectors, ranging from farms and plantations, to processing facilities, traders and logistics centers.

6 principles of ISCC

To support the goal of protecting biodiverse and carbon-rich areas, threatened or vulnerable species and areas of other

ecological or cultural importance, the ISCC is structured around the following six principles for the agricultural production of biomass:

- Principle 1:** Protection of land with high biodiversity value or high carbon stock
- Principle 2:** Environmentally responsible production to protect soil, water and air
- Principle 3:** Safe working conditions
- Principle 4:** Compliance with human and labor rights and responsible community relations
- Principle 5:** Compliance with land rights, laws and international treaties
- Principle 6:** Good management practices and continuous improvement





Two types of ISCC certificates



DEKRA is specialized in auditing and certification in line with two types of ISCC certificates:

ISCC EU

This certificate is relevant for companies involved in biofuels, bioliquids, biomass fuels, advanced fuels, low ilUC risk fuels, renewable fuels of non-biological origin (RFNBOs) and recycled carbon fuels. ISCC EU has been fully recognized by the European Commission since 2011. It serves as verification of compliance with the legal requirements as set out in the recast Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) for all EU Member States. This relates to the sustainability and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions savings criteria for sustainable fuels and the production of electricity, heating and cooling from biomass. Therefore, ISCC EU certification is essential for companies that intend to sell biofuels and biomass in the EU.

Additionally, ISCC EU is recognized by the United Kingdom under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), and under the Liquid Fuel Supply Regulation of Queensland, Australia.

The ISCC EU actually goes beyond the legal requirements of the RED II, as it also covers additional ecological and social requirements.

ISCC PLUS

While ISCC EU focuses on the legally regulated area of biofuels, ISCC PLUS certification applies to biomass outside the EU's RED II. As a flexible system that can be adapted to specific client requirements, it has wide-ranging applicability. For example, this certificate is relevant for companies involved in the bio-economy and circular economy for food, feed, chemicals, bioplastics

Benefits of ISCC certification

- Enter new global markets
- Gain access to green financing
- Reach customers who prefer responsible suppliers
- Strengthen your reputation with credible environmental commitment
- Improve safety and efficiency with supply chain transparency
- Save costs by reducing CO2 emissions
- Promote sustainable agriculture benefiting local communities

The 5 steps in the **ISCC certification process**

Once you have decided to embark on the ISCC certification journey, whether for ISCC EU or ISCC PLUS, how should you proceed? Here is a step-by-step overview of how DEKRA approaches the certification process:

1. Registration and signing of the certification agreement

After you have chosen DEKRA as your authorized certification body, we ask you to register with the ISCC scheme. Once you have obtained an ISCC registration number, we draw up a certification agreement outlining the duration and content of the certification process.

2. On-site certification audit

In order to receive an ISCC certificate, your organization must meet the relevant requirements of the scope, which is determined on the basis of your organization's specific activities. A checklist and implementation documents enable you to pre-check whether you meet the requirements of the scope. You are also responsible for uploading these details into the ISCC hub and keeping them up to date. The details are then verified during an on-site audit conducted by DEKRA's local auditors, in your language.

In preparation for their visit to your location, the auditors will contact you to gain more details and ask for documentation. They verify your answers on the checklist in the context of the scope. The audit includes an evaluation of the implementation documents, plus an assessment of your ISCC system and how it is applied in your daily business processes.

3. Audits of third-party locations within your supply chain

To verify the mass balance administration, DEKRA auditors are required to visit third-party sources within your supply chain to perform document inspections. The number of sources sampled varies depending on your specific situation, but the average is roughly four.

The visits to third-party sources can often set off a chain reaction, particularly among companies that are suppliers to multiple ISCC-certified customers. Rather than being visited for a sample audit each time one of their customers embarks on the certification process, they may decide to get ISCC-certified themselves. That way, they only have to be visited for an ISCC audit once a year. This chain reaction is accelerating the spread of ISCC certification, and therefore also contributing to the shift to a circular economy.





The 5 steps in the ISCC certification process

4. Issuance of the ISCC report and certificate

If the auditors conclude that the data in the ISCC hub meets all the certification requirements, DEKRA will approve your certification, and your audit report and an ISCC EU or ISCC PLUS certificate will become available through the hub. This means your company can now use the certificate – and if applicable can also display the ISCC certification mark or logo – to demonstrate that you produce responsibly and sustainably.

5. Re-certification audit

ISCC certificates are valid for 12 months. An annual inspection is required to retain the certificate. Please note that re-certification must be completed 60 days before the existing certificate expires. It is advisable to schedule the re-certification audit well in advance to avoid a lapse in certification.





Why DEKRA is a reliable partner

DEKRA is the world's largest independent expert organization in the field of testing, inspection and certification. Founded in 1925, we have a century of experience in helping customers across various sectors worldwide to improve their safety, security and sustainability outcomes. Today, we have 49,000 employees and are active in more than 60 countries around the world, including as an authorized certification body (CB) for ISCC. Our ISCC registration code is DEKRA NL220.

Experienced local auditors backed by DEKRA's long-standing expertise

To ensure a seamless certification process for organizations across Europe, DEKRA partners with ISCC-qualified local auditors in various regions. These auditors are equipped with valuable insights into the language, culture, and regulatory landscapes of their respective countries, ensuring that all parties involved experience a smooth and efficient certification process.

DEKRA's extensive expertise and long-standing reputation in the field of certification strengthen the overall process. Our team has successfully verified compliance with ISCC certification requirements for numerous leading companies, affirming our role as a trusted partner in achieving sustainability goals. Whether your organization operates in waste-to-energy, biogas, hydrogen, or recycling, DEKRA brings unparalleled knowledge and local understanding to help you meet and surpass certification standards.

100.
YEARS
SECURING THE
FUTURE
1925 - 2025

CONCLUSION

By enabling businesses in the waste-to-energy, biogas, hydrogen and recycling industries to credibly demonstrate that they are serious about sustainability, the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) scheme offers multiple advantages. Companies across Europe can now benefit from the expertise of DEKRA, one of the world's leading independent certification bodies. By working with experienced, ISCC-qualified local auditors who understand the language, culture, and regulatory frameworks of their regions, DEKRA ensures a smooth and efficient certification process.

Contribute to the chain reaction! ISCC certification demonstrates that you are an environmentally and socially responsible organization that supports the transition to a circular economy. For more information or to arrange an audit process in your own language backed by DEKRA's long-standing expertise, contact us:

[More information](#)



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