About ECOS

ECOS, Environmental Coalition on Standards, is an international NGO with a network of members and experts advocating for environmentally friendly technical standards, policies and laws.

We ensure the environmental voice is heard when they are developed and drive change by providing expertise to policymakers and industry players, leading to the implementation of strong environmental principles.

Our successes consistently impact standards and laws promoting the environment, pushing for a shift to a sustainable use of resources with a circular economy, and ambitious actions to fight climate change.

We also work towards a more inclusive, open and transparent standardisation system, internationally and regionally, including European and national levels, at the same time ensuring an appropriate use of standards in support of environmental legislation and policy.

We are part of a number of impactful alliances and campaigns, such as the Rethink Plastic alliance, Coolproducts, Right to Repair, the Cool Coalition, Platform for Electro-mobility, Wardrobe Change, Coalition for Energy Savings, and the One Planet Network, where we cooperate with other NGOs, progressive companies, and researchers, advocating for a greener future for all. We are also a member of the Global Electronics Council’s EPEAT Advisory Council.
2021 was an important year for ECOS – we turned 20! We took this opportunity to rebrand, with important changes to our statutes, name and visual identity, which now all reflect our international nature and the high level of expertise that we stand for.

The year saw a focus on solutions for a number of important environmental challenges, both from a policy and standardisation point of view, accompanied by several successful reports, events and initiatives.

At international level, we debated how the EU’s planned Sustainable Products Initiative could result in a global race to the top, we set out our vision for the international standardisation system, and proposed a solution to the proliferation of confusing green claims on plastic products. We also ensured that environmentally damaging standards and initiatives did not see the light of day, particularly in the case of the fight against climate change.

At the European level, we celebrated the introduction of a rescaled Energy Label, and the publication of the Common Charger Initiative. We also called for ecodesign requirements for crucial sectors such as textiles.

Having completely adjusted our working culture to the ‘new normal’ imposed by the pandemic, we welcomed several new colleagues at the Secretariat, as well as new members and experts, who inevitably made our network stronger.

All of this work would not have been possible without our members, experts, funders and partners. We are grateful for their support, and are looking forward to working together in 2022!

A few words from Justin Wilkes, ECOS Executive Director
Since our founding in 2001, we have experienced significant growth, becoming a well-respected international environmental NGO, and a trusted and valued partner for standardisers and policymakers.

In 2021, we unveiled our new, modern brand identity, which marked a very important milestone in our journey. ECOS became Environmental Coalition on Standards.

The new branding, together with revised Statutes, new vision and mission, and a more memorable name behind our well-established acronym, expresses our international nature as well as the ideas we strive to embody: the unique combination of environmental protection and a deep level of technical expertise.
2021 in numbers

52 members
+2

24 staff
+5

57 experts
+2

200+ comments on standards
+80

100+ Technical Committees

200+ Working Groups
+50

12 international campaigns
+1

18 publications
+2

7 events

250+ press mentions
+150

3,385 Twitter followers
+535

3,710 LinkedIn followers
+1,410

2021 timeline

During a Special General Assembly, ECOS members officially approve our new name and logo. ECOS becomes Environmental Coalition on Standards!

Durable, repairable and mainstream! In a report and webinar, we explain how ecodesign requirements for circular textiles can drive a more environmentally friendly textiles production – before the planet turns into the ultimate fashion victim.

ECOS members e-meet for our General Assembly and reflect on our journey over the past 20 years.

ECOS rebrands!

Rescaled energy labels
We are happy to see rescaled energy labels on home appliances and TVs but ask the EU to ramp up ambition to unlock game-changing savings.

Towards durable textiles

The role of renewable hydrogen in the energy transition
Together with a group of environmental NGOs, we hold a workshop for Members of the European Parliament and the European Council, exploring the role of hydrogen in the energy transition.

Making Sustainable Products the Norm
Our annual conference focuses on making sustainable products the norm, featuring a keynote speech by Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, as well as an expert panel composed of high-level speakers.

The list of ‘green’ claims found on plastic products is longer than ever but often they are as misleading as they sound promising. Together with the Rethink Plastic alliance and Break Free From Plastic we examine ‘green’ claims made on plastic items. In a report and webinar, we explain how to make credible green environmental claims the norm.
2021 timeline

**September**
- **A push for a clean heating sector**
  - Together with 30 businesses, NGOs and city representatives, we advocate for a phase-out of the sales of new fossil fuel operated boilers.
  - Read more →

**October**
- **EU Sustainable Energy Week**
  - Together with partner NGOs, we host two EUSEW sessions, focusing on the environmental impact of data centres and zero-impact buildings.
  - Watch →
- **World Standards Day and ECOS Annual Training**
- **World Standards Day**
  - On 14 October, we celebrate World Standards Day – a great opportunity to reflect on the important role that standards play in shaping our world and advancing SDGs.
  - Read more →
  - World Standards Day is also an occasion to bring together our members and experts for an online training session about civil society in standardisation.
  - Read more →

**November**
- **Bringing standards into focus in Austria**
- **The effective participation of environmental NGOs in standards-making is key to making sure our planet is protected by robust rules.**
  - Our online workshop co-organised with our member GLOBAL 2000 discusses how to make this engagement possible in Austria.
  - Watch →

**December**
- **Think twice, print... on ecodesigned printers!**
  - Printers have grown to become an archetype of today’s throwaway culture, in spite of over a decade of EU-endorsed industry commitments to make them more sustainable.
  - Together with the Right to Repair movement we showed the European Commission why regulation is needed to end built-in obsolescence of printers.
  - Read more →
Success highlights

Building momentum for a ban on new fossil fuel boilers

Devastating climate change will happen unless we stop urgently burning fossil fuels – including for home heating. In 2021, ECOS campaigned for a ban on new fossil fuel boilers as of 2025, and policymakers finally started to listen: key countries such as Germany aligned with our position and called for a phase-out. In addition, the European Commission proposed an ambitious energy label for boilers, which will mean an incentive for companies to innovate and develop more efficient heating appliances.

What difference did we make?

- ECOS successfully identified and capitalised on a window of opportunity for the phase-out of fossil fuel heating through the revision of EU ecodesign rules for home heating appliances.
- Mobilising national NGOs within the Coolproducts campaign, we shifted the narrative, persuading the Commission to acknowledge the incoherence between a regulation that allows polluting appliances on the market and the EU’s ambitious climate objectives.
- Following our continued advocacy efforts, the European Commission changed its environmentally damaging position, proposing a new energy label that downgrades polluting heating to the lowest energy classes.
- Through tireless advocacy, campaign and media outreach, we managed to rally several EU member states behind the idea of a ban on fossil-fuel operated boilers.

Read the full story
Success highlights

Smart standards for a smarter future

2022 will see the publication of two new standards essential for smart charging. These standards will determine how we charge our electric cars, change the way electricity flows in our homes, and potentially cut our energy bills. Both are set to boost the deployment of smart charging infrastructures, affecting the daily lives of millions of people across the world. Both were drafted with significant involvement from ECOS.

What difference did we make?

- We are the only environmental NGO active in the different standardisation working groups covering a wide variety of energy management and EV charging topics. Our heavy involvement was instrumental to the drafting of robust and compatible standards.

- We pushed for a smooth charging experience as one of the ways to promote electrification to consumers.

- As the party without vested business interests, we helped lead the dialogue and look for compromise among a wide range of stakeholders with diverging commercial interests.

- We are now bringing our expertise on the CEM and V2G standards to the drafting process of other key smart charging standards so that all standards are aligned to support smart charging.
Success highlights

One charger to fit them all

In 2021, the European Commission unveiled its long-awaited proposal for a common charger for electronic devices. Strongly opposed by powerful market players, this initiative would not have been possible without consistent and vocal support from ECOS and the wider environmental NGO community.

Read the full story

What difference did we make?

- We carried out a wide range of advocacy and media actions, pushing policymakers to consider the broadest possible range of smaller devices as candidates for a common charger, as well as to unbundle charger and appliance sales.
- Our 2020 report put forward clear recommendations on how to make use of the existing ecodesign regulation on external power supplies to ensure an ambitious common charger initiative. The 2021 proposal from the Commission builds on our recommendations.
- In 2021, we applauded the Commission for its efforts, and kept pushing the EU to improve the common charger initiative even further, to make sure it reaches its full potential.
Success highlights

Defending the science behind global warming accounting

In 2021, ECOS made sure that an ISO standard on ‘radiative forcing management’ did not see the light of day. If published, the standard could have become a new commonly-agreed way of measuring climate change – an alternative to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), the most common reference today. This standard could have been used to challenge the scientific arguments pointing to human influence on global warming.

What difference did we make?

- ECOS teamed up with environmental NGOs and a number of European National Standards Bodies to block the creation of a standard on ‘radiative forcing management’.
- We ensured support from international institutions, including the European Commission and some UN bodies.
- Throughout the process, we offered compelling science-based arguments against the development of such a standard, as well as the very way it was being developed.

Read the full story
Success highlights

Down to the last detail
– the many facets of plastic

Tackling misleading claims, dealing with complex and unclear definitions, ensuring that legislation lives up to its full potential... Together with the Rethink Plastic alliance, in 2021 we strived for plastic-related laws and standards to work for the planet!

What difference did we make?

- We exposed some of the methods companies use to mislead environment-conscious consumers, such as unreliable and unverified claims on plastic products.
- We made sure that new definitions set in legislation and standards related to plastics are sound, and do not open any loopholes helping manufacturers to avoid real action.
- We convinced standardisers not to include a newly-created concept of 'mesoplastic', pitched as a sub-type of microplastic, in a European plastic terminology standard, pushing both policy-makers and the standardisation community to focus on the magnitude of the microplastics problem instead.
- We ensured a revision of European standards on home composting for packaging products, making them stricter and better reflecting real-life conditions.

Read the full story
Publications

Standards & the planet

- 20 years of ECOS | Online infographic
- International standardisation that works for the environment - Making change happen | Discussion paper in English & German
- ECOS views on the Roadmap for the Standardisation Strategy | Position paper

Plastics, reuse & green claims

- Too good to be true? A study of green claims on plastic products | Report with Rethink Plastic Alliance and #breakfreemfromplastic
- Recycled content in plastics | The mass balance approach | Paper & Infographic, joint with Rethink Plastic alliance
- Realising Reuse - The potential for scaling up reusable packaging, and policy recommendations | Report with Zero Waste Europe and the European Environmental Bureau

Making products sustainable by design

- Step into the future – sustainability is the norm for our everyday products! | Infographic
- Durable, repairable and mainstream - How ecodesign can make our textiles circular | Report & infographic
- Recommendations for the EU Strategy for Sustainable Textiles from Environmental Civil Society Organisations | Wardrobe Change paper
- Member States’ ambition to phase out fossil-fuel heating | Coolproducts briefing
- Delays in ecodesign implementation threaten 55% climate target and cost citizens billions | Coolproducts report
- One step forward, two steps back - A deep dive into the climate impact of modern fluorinated refrigerants | Briefing
- Spotlight on Steel | Factsheet

Circular electronics

- Urgent call to improve WEEE treatment, collection, logistics and preparation for re-use in Europe - How standards can inspire upcoming EU requirements | Position paper
- Climate neutral clouds? What we need to achieve climate neutral, highly energy efficient and sustainable data centres in Europe by 2030 | Coolproducts briefing
- One charger to fit them all - ECOS position on the European Commission’s common charger initiative | Position paper
- Enhancing the Sustainability of Batteries: A Joint NGOs’ Position Paper on the EU Battery Regulation Proposal | Joint position paper with Transport & Environment, Deutsche Umwelthilfe and the European Environmental Bureau

Standards & the planet

- 20 years of ECOS | Online infographic
- International standardisation that works for the environment - Making change happen | Discussion paper in English & German
- ECOS views on the Roadmap for the Standardisation Strategy | Position paper

Plastics, reuse & green claims

- Too good to be true? A study of green claims on plastic products | Report with Rethink Plastic Alliance and #breakfreemfromplastic
- Recycled content in plastics | The mass balance approach | Paper & Infographic, joint with Rethink Plastic alliance
- Realising Reuse - The potential for scaling up reusable packaging, and policy recommendations | Report with Zero Waste Europe and the European Environmental Bureau

Making products sustainable by design

- Step into the future – sustainability is the norm for our everyday products! | Infographic
- Durable, repairable and mainstream - How ecodesign can make our textiles circular | Report & infographic
- Recommendations for the EU Strategy for Sustainable Textiles from Environmental Civil Society Organisations | Wardrobe Change paper
- Member States’ ambition to phase out fossil-fuel heating | Coolproducts briefing
- Delays in ecodesign implementation threaten 55% climate target and cost citizens billions | Coolproducts report
- One step forward, two steps back - A deep dive into the climate impact of modern fluorinated refrigerants | Briefing
- Spotlight on Steel | Factsheet

Circular electronics

- Urgent call to improve WEEE treatment, collection, logistics and preparation for re-use in Europe - How standards can inspire upcoming EU requirements | Position paper
- Climate neutral clouds? What we need to achieve climate neutral, highly energy efficient and sustainable data centres in Europe by 2030 | Coolproducts briefing
- One charger to fit them all - ECOS position on the European Commission’s common charger initiative | Position paper
- Enhancing the Sustainability of Batteries: A Joint NGOs’ Position Paper on the EU Battery Regulation Proposal | Joint position paper with Transport & Environment, Deutsche Umwelthilfe and the European Environmental Bureau
Our people

Secretariat

Executive Management team

Justin Wilkes
Executive Director

Chloé Fayole
Strategy Director

Rianne Franken
Operations Director

Kasia Koniecka
Head of Communications

Nerea Ruiz Fuente
Policy Director

Climate & Energy team
coordinated by Nerea Ruiz Fuente

Luka de Bruyckere
Programme Manager

Rita Tedesco
Senior Programme Manager

Valeria Botta
Programme Manager

Samy Porteron
Programme Manager

Jonathan Vavre
Climate & Energy Trainee

Rianne Fayole

Communications team
coordinated by Kasia Koniecka

Ivo Cabral
Press & Communications Manager

Pia Cencig
Membership & Communications Manager

Costanza Chimisso
Circular Economy Trainee

Operations team
coordinated by Rianne Franken

Anna Arcuri
Partnership & Development Manager

Cristina Mariniuc
HR & Administration Manager

Patrick Mihalaras
Senior Manager, Finance & Grants

Mélissa Zill
Programme Manager

Mathilde Crépy
Senior Programme Manager

Federica Pozzi
Programme Manager

Fanny Rateau
Programme Manager

Margarus Le Gallou
Programme Manager

Ivo Cabral
Press & Communications Manager

Mathilde Crépy
Senior Programme Manager

Federica Pozzi
Programme Manager

Fanny Rateau
Programme Manager

Margarus Le Gallou
Programme Manager

Pamela Tarif
Head of Global Engagement

Ioana Popescu
Senior Programme Manager

Ioana Popescu
Senior Programme Manager

Ioana Popescu
Senior Programme Manager

Ioana Popescu
Senior Programme Manager
Our people

Executive Committee

Emilie Carmichael
Energy Saving Trust, President

Marion Hasper
Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND)/German environmental NGOs coordination network for standardisation (KNU), Vice President

Gianmarco Santirocco
Individual capacity, Treasurer

Greg Archer
Transport & Environment (President until June 2021)

Bob Brett
Individual capacity

Julika Dittrich
Umweltdachverband

Francisco Ferreira
ZERO

Meletis Fouskaris
Individual capacity

Patrick ten Brink
European Environmental Bureau
Our members

National member organisations

Austria
- Umweltdachverband
- Global 2000

Belgium
- Bond Beter Leefmilieu Vlaanderen (BBLV)
- Inter-Environnement Wallonie (IEW)
- RepairTogether
- Repair & Share

Bulgaria
- Institute for Ecological Modernisation (IEM)

Croatia
- DOOR – Society for Sustainable Development Design

Czech republic
- Zelený Kruh (Green Circle)

Cyprus
- Terra Cypria – The Cyprus Conservation Foundation

Denmark
- The Danish Society for Nature Conservation (DN)
- Danish Ecological Council (Det Økologiske Råd)

France
- Zero Waste France
- Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF-France)
- Halte à l’Obsolescence Programmée (HOP)
- CLER – French Energy Transition Network
- Ethikis

Germany
- Bund Für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND)
- Bundesverband Bürgerinitiativen Umweltschutz (BBU)
- Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR)
- Nature Friends Germany (NaturFreunde Deutschlands)
- Deutsche Umwelthilfe
- Runder Tisch Reparatur

Greece
- Ecocity Greece

Hungary
- Clean Air Action Group (CAAG)

Italy
- Legambiente

Ireland
- Community Repair Network Ireland (CRNI)

Latvia
- Friends of the Earth Latvia (Zemes Draugi)

Lithuania
- Žiedinė ekonomika

Luxembourg
- The Luxembourg Ecological Center (Oekozenter Lëtzebuerg)

Netherlands
- Stichting Natuur en Milieu (SNM)
- Leefmilieu

Norway
- BELLONA Norway

Poland
- Polish Foundation for Energy Efficiency (FEWE)
- ClientEarth Poland

Portugal
- ZERO

Slovakia
- Repairably

Spain
- ECODES

Sweden
- The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SCNC/SNF)

Switzerland
- WWF Switzerland

United kingdom
- Energy Saving Trust (EST)
- UK Sustainability Network for Standardisation

USA
- Green Science Policy Institute

International member organisations

- Bellona Europe
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- Friends of the Earth Europe (FoEE)
- Health Care Without Harm Europe (HCWH)
- Health & Environmental Alliance (HEAL)
- European umbrella for social enterprises with activities in reuse, repair and recycling (RREUSE)
- European Federation for Transport & Environment (T&E)
- WWF – European Policy Office (WWF-EPO)
- Zero Waste Europe (ZWE)
Financial overview

**Income**
2.6 Million €

- 52% Foundations
- 43% European Commission & EFTA
- 4% Horizon Europe
- 1% Membership fees

**Expenditure**
2.6 Million €

- 62% Personnel
- 29% Activities
- 8% Office & administration
- 1% Reserves

**Total annual income**
Million €

- 1.4 2017
- 1.7 2018
- 2 2019
- 2.1 2020
- 2.6 2021
Our funders

We are grateful for the trust placed in us by the following organisations and entities who support our activities and make our work possible.

- European Commission
- European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- European Climate Foundation
- Kristian Gerhard Jebsen Foundation
- Laudes Foundation
- Adessium Foundation
- Plastic Solutions Fund
- KNU
- Engage
- Umwelt Bundesamt UBA (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit)
Environmental Coalition on Standards
Mundo-b, the Brussels Sustainable House
Rue d'Edimbourg, 26
1050 Brussels, Belgium
+32 2 894 46 68
ecostandard.org

Follow us
@ECOS_Standard  ECOS-NGO

ECOS is co-funded by the European Commission & EFTA. Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EISMEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.