

ECOCERT Group Acquires US Organic Certifier Indiana Certified Organic LLC

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NEW YORK--(EON: Enhanced Online News)--ECOCERT, a French environmental body devoted to sustainable development and the certification of organic agricultural products, recently acquired [Indiana Certified Organic](#) – an organic certification agency operating across the US and US Virgin Islands.

This transaction is key in [ECOCERT](#)'s strategy in developing its North American business plan with well-established local partners in the USA. An international certification body, ECOCERT was accredited to ISO Guide 65 by internationally recognized governmental authorities, ensuring complete confidentiality, independence, impartiality, and competence in the delivery of its services. The acquisition of [ICO](#) brings over three hundred additional U.S. clients to the Group and an enhanced position on the U.S. market with a local presence, brand, network and team.

Formed in 1991, ECOCERT is actively involved in environmental protection and social responsibility. Its wide range of products and services - organic cosmetics, fair trade products, organic textiles, organic farming and inputs, ecological green spaces, organic home fragrance and cleaning products - makes this company a key actor in sustainable development. Its client base includes renowned international brands such as Aveda, Kielh's, Nuxe, Kora, Origins, and Matrix.

Indiana Certified Organic began offering organic certification in 1995 - one of the first to be accredited by the US National Organic Program. Currently operating in 24 states, ICO is NOP, ISO 65 and CAEQ accredited. It offers inspection services through its national network and certification for crops, wild crops, livestock, handlers & processors.

Discussions between ECOCERT and ICO started in October 2009, and a formal process in July 2010. On January 28, 2011, an agreement converted 100% ownership of ICO to ECOCERT Inc.

Commenting on the acquisition, former ICO CEO Cecilia Bowman noted "ECOCERT was a natural choice as we share the same values and commitment to organic farmers and handlers. I am confident that the ICO team will improve our client services."

ECOCERT CEO William Vidal agreed, noting "ICO was the perfect match to develop our activities in the US, spread our values, and more generally promote the organic world. We are proud to have ICO within the ECOCERT Group. It will strengthen our commitment to the organic sector".

Contacts

ECOCERT GROUP COMMUNICATION

Julie Basdevant, +33 (0)5 62 07 34 24
B.P. 47 - 32600 L'Isle Jourdain - FRANCE
julie.basdevant@ecocert.com
www.ecocert.com

or

ECOCERT INC / ICO:

Vincent Morel
Managing Director
vincent.morel@ecocert.com

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