

ECOLAB INC  
Form 4  
October 31, 2011

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
FRITZE STEVEN L

(Last) (First) (Middle)

ECOLAB INC., 370 WABASHA STREET N.

(Street)

ST. PAUL, MN 55102

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
ECOLAB INC [ECL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
10/28/2011

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Chief Financial Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |                                                    | Code                           | V                                                                 | Amount or Price                                                                               |                                                          |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 10/28/2011                           |                                                    | M                              |                                                                   | 20,411 A \$ 51.52                                                                             | 92,911                                                   | D                                 |
| Common Stock                    | 10/28/2011                           |                                                    | F                              |                                                                   | 19,500 (1) D \$ 55.175                                                                        | 73,411                                                   | D                                 |
| Common Stock                    | 10/28/2011                           |                                                    | M                              |                                                                   | 13,578 A \$ 51.2                                                                              | 86,989                                                   | D                                 |
| Common Stock                    | 10/28/2011                           |                                                    | F                              |                                                                   | 12,972 (1) D \$ 55.175                                                                        | 74,017                                                   | D                                 |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |                                                    |                                |                                                                   |                                                                                               | 12,545.272 (2)                                           | I                                 |

By Ecolab Savings Plan

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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            |                                                        |                                      |                                                    | Code                           | V (A) (D)                                                                               | Date Exercisable Expiration Date                         | Title Amount or Number of Shares                              |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 51.52                                               | 10/28/2011                           |                                                    | M                              | 20,411                                                                                  | 12/13/2007 12/06/2011                                    | Common Stock 20,411                                           |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 51.52                                               | 10/28/2011                           |                                                    | M                              | 13,578                                                                                  | 12/13/2007 05/10/2012                                    | Common Stock 13,578                                           |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                                | Relationships |           |                         |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
|                                                                               | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                 | Other |
| FRITZE STEVEN L<br>ECOLAB INC.<br>370 WABASHA STREET N.<br>ST. PAUL, MN 55102 |               |           | Chief Financial Officer |       |

## Signatures

/s/David F. Duvick, Attorney-in-Fact for Steven L. Fritze 10/31/2011

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Reflects the reporting person's payment of the exercise price and withholding taxes for a stock option issued in accordance with Rule 16b-3 by withholding shares of Ecolab Common Stock.  
Number of UNITS in the Ecolab Stock Fund of the Ecolab Savings Plan (401(k) Plan) as of September 30, 2011. Includes 124,689
- (2) UNITS acquired since the reporting person's last report. (The 12,545,272 UNITS are the equivalent of approximately 23,392 SHARES of the issuer's Common Stock.)

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.