

# Implementing an Environmental Management System

**City of Dallas**

**March 6, 2007**

# City of Dallas

- 13,000 Employees
- 55 “Industrial” Facilities
  - 2 Waste Water Treatment Plants
  - 3 Water Treatment Plants
  - Landfill and Transfer Stations
  - Airports
  - Zoo
  - 6 Major Service Centers
- Over 100 Regulated Entity Numbers with TCEQ
- Thousands of Environmental Requirements



# Why EMS at the City of Dallas?

- Pre 2000
  - Compliance Concerns
    - No Focal Point
    - Minimal Training
    - Few Policies/Directives
    - Need to Enhance Compliance Monitoring
  - Sustainability Programs Begin

# Why EMS at the City of Dallas?

- Fall 2003
  - 4 Weeks of Media Coverage of Environmental Issues at Service Centers
  - EPA Enforcement Order Issued Resulting in Penalty (\$800,000 and \$1.2 Million in SEPs)
  - Office of Environmental Quality Established Reporting to City Manager's Office
- Winter 2004
  - EMS Implementation Begins

# City of Dallas EMS

- Implement an ISO 14001 based EMS across 11 City Departments by April 2007
- Focus of the EMS is to Reduce the City's Impact on the Environment
  - Compliance is a portion of the EMS
  - So is Going Beyond Compliance
- Purpose is to Institute a Cultural Change to Make Environmental Stewardship a Fundamental Value and Work Practice of All Employees Across the City

# EMS Departments

Aviation	Sanitation
Police	Fire
Code	Convention Center
Streets	Parks and Recreation
Equipment & Building Services	Dallas Water Utilities
Public Works	

# Organization of the EMS

- City Manager's Office Stated Each Department Have 0.5 FTE on Average Dedicated to EMS
- Each Department Set Up Cross Functional EMS Core Team to Develop and Implement the EMS
- City Wide Procedures and Training Developed by OEQ
- Monthly Reporting to City Manager's Office on Progress



# Results of the EMS

# Compliance

- Systematic Compliance Auditing of City Facilities by OEQ
  - Partnership with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to disclose violations without fear of penalty
- Reduction in Compliance Gaps Noted During Compliance Auditing
- Reporting of Compliance Gaps to Department Director and City Manager
- **Reduction in Notices of Violation – 19 in FY 2005/2006 and Only 2 Thus Far in FY 2006/2007**

# **Reduction in Notices of Violation –**

**19 in FY 2005/2006**

**2 Thus Far in FY 2006/2007**

This leads to a reduction in costs  
(fines, staff time, attorney's)  
and improved compliance  
record

# Costs

- **Reduction in Environmental Impacts Has Lead to Reduction in Costs:**
  - Reduction in energy use
  - Reduction is waste disposal costs with increases in recycling
  - Reduction in chemical use and product purchases
- **EXAMPLE**
  - Water Based Parts Washer replaced Hazardous Cleaner

# Further Sustainability

- **The City has purchased CNG vehicles since 1994. The EMS set a new goal**
  - All new sedans purchased (except emergency vehicles) will be green vehicles (CNG, ethanol, or hybrid)
- **All buildings over 10,000 square feet are LEED Silver**
  - Monitoring and measurement data will be collected to verify associated environmental impacts in water use, energy use, and waste reduction

# **New Programs**

- **Streets is Recycling Material Collected from the Right of Way**
- **Police is Considering the Use of LED Lights Instead of Flares Leading to a Reduction in Wastes and Storage of Flammables**
- **Farmer's Market is Evaluating Composting of Vegetable Waste to be Used by Parks and Rec as Compost Material**

# Employee Performance Plans

- All Employees Have Environmental Stewardship in Their Performance Plans
- Operational Employees Also Have Additional Environmental Objectives in Their Performance Plans

“Performs work in a manner that eliminates or minimizes environmental impacts. Prevents spills before they occur by implementing pollution prevention practices. Minimizes impacts from spills by following appropriate containment, clean up, and reporting guidelines. Seeks to continually improve environmental performance of the facility.”

# Other Examples

- **Improved and Coordinated Environmental Training Programs**
- **Documented Legal and Other Requirements**
- **Coordinating Commenting on Environmental Regulations**
- **Grant Application Increases**
- **Employee Participation and Morale**
- **Increased Communication Between Departments**
- **Enhanced Agency Relationships**

# What's Working/Barriers

- What's Working
  - Cooperation/Learning Between City Departments
  - Environmental Improvements
  - Employee Understanding
- Barriers
  - Other Large City-wide Initiatives
  - Training
  - Language



# EMS Benefits

- Employees Understand Environmental Impacts of Daily Activities and Act Accordingly
- Organize and Drive Sustainability Programs
- Improved Compliance
- Management Involvement and Commitment
- Cooperation/Collaboration between City Departments
- Cost Savings
- Enhanced State and Federal Agency Relationships



# Ranking of the City of Dallas

- **SustainLane Ranking**
  - **The City of Dallas Ranked 24 out of 50 Cities Scored for Sustainability Practices**
  - **[www.sustainlane.com](http://www.sustainlane.com)**
  - **Scored Highest for Internal Sustainability Knowledgebase**
  - **The City is Working Diligently to Improve Scores for Next Year**
- **Ranked Number 5 in the US for the Use of Alternative Fueled Vehicles**

# Summary

**An Environmental Management System is a Management Process that Drives Change...**

**In the City of Dallas it is Driving a Change to Be a More Sustainable, Environmentally Friendly City**

# Contact Information

Laura Fiffick

214 670 5942

[Laura.fiffick@dallascityhall.com](mailto:Laura.fiffick@dallascityhall.com)

