

# Implementing an Environmental Management System - A Municipal Perspective

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# Presentation Outline

- Our Integrated Waste Management Centre
- Prior to Environmental Management System
- Implementation & Maintenance of an Environmental Management System
- Benefits from an EMS
- Experiences from Waterloo's EMS
  - Environmental Goals
  - Continuous Maintenance & Evaluation

# Waterloo Waste Management System



# Prior to ISO 14001 EMS

- No organized EMS or Environmental Policy
- Corporate interest in Continuous Improvement & Mission Statement
- Lacked organized written procedures
- Monitoring & Measurement activities complete but not fully documented

# EMS Implementation

- Gap Analysis
- 1.5 years to implement (~2 FTE staff)
- Cost of \$50,000 (+ staff cost)
- Extensive staff training
- Registration audit



# Ongoing EMS Maintenance

- Ongoing documentation
- Continuous review of environmental systems
  - Significant Aspects,
  - Objectives & Targets,
  - Staff training,
  - Legal reviews, and
  - Audits
- Maintenance costs of \$40,000 yearly (includes 1 FTE staff)

# Benefits From An EMS

- Clear Environmental Policy
- Measurable & documented Objectives/Targets
- Enhanced documentation
- Commitment of resources to improve environment



# Our EMS Experiences

- Keep focused on environmental goals
- Significant continuous maintenance
- Ensure EMS fits organization
- Continually evaluate what's working & what's not
- Keep all parties involved - staff, liaison groups, regulators



# Environmental Goals

- Set Environmental Policy
- Have measurable & realistic goal setting
- Focus on “Significant” Environmental Aspects
- Involve neighbours - log communications



# Continuous Maintenance

- Maintenance is a must
- Detailed documents require constant changes
- Keep focused
- Avoid getting bogged down
  - Keep non-relevant programs out
- Budget required for maintenance

# Continuous Evaluation

- How is the system performing?
- What is the relation to environmental performance?
  - Cell phone useage?
  - Petty cash policy?
- Is there any duplication?
- Are all the procedures there?
- Is anything missing?

# EMS Summary Points

- Sets up a System for Continuous Improvement
- Provides focus for environmental goal setting
- System for monitoring progress of objectives and targets
- Shows serious commitment to environmental improvements