

EMS: A Better Bottom Line for Local Government

Environmental Management Systems

What is an EMS?

An Environmental Management System (EMS) provides a systematic way to review and improve operations for better organizational performance. By incorporating environmental considerations into an organization's decision-making structure, an EMS introduces employees to more efficient business processes. This often leads to enhanced operational effectiveness and a better bottom line. Experience has proven that investment in an EMS can mean money saved, reduced insurance premiums, improved bond ratings, and greater regulatory flexibility, as well as improved confidence on the management of environmental issues.



"Our operating costs at the water plant were reduced by \$175,000 by using only necessary equipment. Most of

the utility's departments have seen operations and maintenance savings that far offset the cost of EMS implementation"

Charleston Commissioner of Public Works



Cost Savings

An EMS delivers big benefits – organizations that implement an EMS quickly discover that their investment pays off. Monetary and natural resource savings are two significant direct benefits of EMS adoption. These long-term savings produce a win-win situation for the organization, the public and regulatory officials.

PUBLIC ENTITY			
City of San Diego Refuse Disposal Division	Tri-Metropolitan Transportation District, Portland, Oregon	Massachusetts Department of Protection	Jefferson County, Alabama
SAVINGS	\$868,000	\$300,000	18,000 pounds waste in 3 months
DESCRIPTION	in heavy equipment and diesel rates by shutting off equipment during breaks and lunch periods	Millions of dollars saved	due to recycling program at DEP's W.E.S. Laboratory
	identified as operational savings - \$66,000 of this for energy conservation	due to potential bond rating improvement	



"Insurance companies have indicated that we can expect to see, in the future, a 20% reduction in our insurance premiums as a result of our EMS documentation and the operational controls now in place."

Port of Houston Authority, Texas

Avoiding Future Liabilities

An EMS provides future liability avoidance and promotes better working relationships with regulators. It also gives organizations a better understanding of their legal requirements and provides a consistent method for finding the root causes of non-compliance. Improved compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements can reduce

penalties and remediation costs - potentially saving thousands. Organizations with EMS no longer apply reactive quick fixes for violations, but seek to eliminate the causes of these violations and prevent future occurrences. Training, communication, monitoring, measuring and regular management review are the EMS tools used every day to make this possible.

Reduced Insurance Premiums and Improved Bond Ratings

EMSs help reduce environmental and workplace security risks. This systems process approach has created verifiable, credible environmental results that have led to better overall organizational performance. In turn, an EMS has the potential to significantly influence financial institutions as they assess risk.

Greater return on investment.

We're told the potential impact of our EMS, taken with other factors, is a 1/16th to 1/8th of a point improvement on our bond rating, which could mean millions of dollars of taxpayer money saved each time we borrow money for capital projects.

Jefferson County, Alabama

Sample Costs

Based on data collected since 1997, the resources that public entities commit to EMS are primarily direct labor costs, with no additional employees or specialists needed on the workforce. Direct labor costs have averaged about 12 hours per employee per year to integrate EMS activities into their daily activities.

Average Resources Used* = \$95,275 ♦ Average Labor Hours* = 3,074
(over 2 years) (over 2 years)

Port of Houston Authority, TX
Cut Container Terminal & Maintenance Facility
\$97,256 ♦ 3,685 hours

Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District, Portland, OR
5 Maintenance Facilities
\$89,241 ♦ 2,809 hours

City of Berkeley, CA
Solid Waste Management Division
\$93,266 ♦ 3,813 hours

Jefferson County, AL
General Services Dept. & Fleet Management
\$92,734 ♦ 3,877 hours



*based on data collected from 23 public entities.

For Further Information:


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