

# FACT SHEET #1

## Implementing an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System

### WHAT IS ISO 14001?

The ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management System (EMS) Standard was created to provide a systematic framework for achieving and demonstrating sound environmental performance by controlling the impacts of their activities, products and services on the environment.

### PLAN-DO-CHECK-ACT

ISO 14001 is based on a Plan, Do, Check, Act methodology for achieving continual improvement in environmental performance.



Properly implemented, an ISO 14001 EMS can have far reaching and very positive impacts on an organizations performance, including:

- ▶ Cost savings,
- ▶ Improved environmental performance,
- ▶ Reduced risks associated with environmental incidents and wasted resources,
- ▶ Improvements in productivity,
- ▶ Increased staff satisfaction, &
- ▶ New markets and customers.

Importantly, once employees learn to operate in an environment focused on continual improvement and efficiency, they soon apply the experience to other aspects of their work.

### TIPS TO DEPLOYING AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM

There are no cookie cutter EMSs. The key to success is in creating a system that suites your needs and culture.

Here are some tried and true ideas that you can use to make it easier to design and maintain your system.

#### 1. LEVERAGE EXISTING PROCEDURES

- ▶ Conduct a gap & opportunity assessment to identify what you have in place & what you are missing. This will become your foundation.

#### 2. PRIORITIZE YOUR APPROACH

- ▶ Start early on the more difficult tasks, e.g. establish document and records control procedures first!

#### 3. COMMUNICATE AND INSPIRE

- ▶ The key to success is involving people in the process – it creates ownership and realism in the system,
- ▶ Create key messages for success,
- ▶ Establish an EMS team and appoint EMS champions to spread the word,
- ▶ Create a branding for all EMS related communications,
- ▶ Create interesting and attractive communication materials to support training activities, &
- ▶ Always celebrate successes!

#### 4. FOCUS ON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT

- ▶ Perhaps the most important aspect is to design the system so that it delivers practical improvements so that the system adds real value to your business, &
- ▶ Integrate continual improvement processes to identify and achieve opportunities for improvement.

## About Us

Our team delivers unprecedented results for clients using innovative methodologies, results oriented approaches, collaborative processes and commitment to high quality.

Our environmental experts can work with your organization to focus on those activities will have the best impact for your organization.

CEO Libby Chaplin, combines extensive experience in program design, system implementation, environmental procurement, and e-Stewards certification to ensure you get the results you need.



If you would like to discuss your program or obtain additional information about our services, please contact us:

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