

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS: BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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When most people first consider writing an EMS (Environmental Management System), the task can seem to be intimidating. The question then becomes what's in it for me? This presentation focuses on the idea that many of the things you are doing now can be directly applied to the EMS- in a sense you've already gathered the information necessary to write one!

Each EMS is specific and individual to the organization putting it into place. It is a growing living document in the sense that annual review and correction is a cornerstone of the process.

The benefits seen from writing an EMS are many. Just a few of them are:

Increased employee care- if the EMS is developed with employee input, they will have partial ownership of the plan and therefore take it seriously. This results in an increase in the quality of the services you provide.

Better relations with state and federal agencies- any effort to work cooperatively with your neighbors and with the environment is sure to be noticed by these organizations.

Direct financial benefit- not only will your bottom line improve with the increase in quality and care, but your insurance is affected as well. In my experience, our carriers are eager to offer additional discounts to clients who have taken the time and care to go through this process. With clients who carry an environmental pollution policy, we see a minimum of a 10% discount on their premiums. This discount is renewable from year to year as long as the client has kept up their plan through annual review and correction.

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