

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM & COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

In 2011, the voluntary Environmental Management System (EMS) program, established in Iowa Code 455J, moved beyond the “pilot” phase. The pilot period of the EMS program took place from November 2009 through December 2010, when six participants each underwent a training program to learn about and adopt an EMS concentrating on continuous improvement in six component areas including:

- Yard Waste Management
- Hazardous Household Waste Collection
- Water Quality Improvement
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Recycling Services
- Environmental Education

When training was complete, each pilot participant underwent an on-site EMS Audit by an external party and submitted an annual report containing information about the EMS processes and framework. The report included information about the organization’s accomplishments towards their environmental goals.

The Solid Waste Alternatives (EMS) Council, an advisory board working with the DNR on the program, reviewed reports and recommended to the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) that each of the six pilot participants should continue to receive EMS designation. Since they were no longer pilots, the DNR and EMS Council agreed upon the term “Tier 2” participant.

After a June EMS informational workshop for all interested solid waste agencies and local governments, two solid waste agencies applied in August for admittance to the EMS program:

- Northern Plains Regional Planning Area, serving Clay, Emmet, Palo Alto, and Pocahontas Counties
- South Central Iowa Solid Waste Agencies, serving Lucas, Marion and Poweshiek Counties

The two agencies were approved by the EMS Council and the EPC for designation as Tier 1 EMS program participants. Training for Tier 1 participants began in October and will continue throughout 2012. Training methods will include group meetings, on-site visits, conference calls and webinars aimed at facilitating implementation of the EMS.



EMS PILOT (NOW TIER 2) PARTICIPANTS

- Cass County Environmental Control Agency
- Cedar Rapids Linn-County Solid Waste Agency (Landfill Service Area)
- Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency
- Metro Waste Authority (Landfill Service Area)
- Rathbun Area Solid Waste Management Commission
- Waste Commission of Scott County (Landfill Service Area)

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Round Six is now history with the completion of the final fourteen Comprehensive Plan Update reviews. Round Seven does not kick off until September 1, 2013.

Beyond reviewing Comprehensive Plan Updates, DNR program planner Leslie Goldsmith not only responds to information requests from students, local government officials and solid waste facility staff, but also provides outreach to stakeholders on current topics.

During 2012, Goldsmith has plans to make information available for stakeholders across Iowa on important topics such as waste flow, shingle recycling and multi-family unit recycling.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about EMS and Comprehensive Planning, go to www.iowadnr.gov/FABA

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2011 EMS SUCCESS

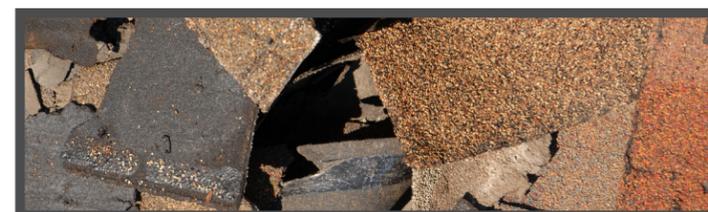
WASTE COMMISSION OF SCOTT COUNTY

The Waste Commission of Scott County is an excellent example of the success that can be achieved through an EMS. However, this feature is a reflection of the types of goals and results all Tier 2 participants are achieving and does not exclude the excellent actions and results taken by the other five Tier 2 participants to achieve continuous improvement.

A DNR team conducted the second Environmental Management System (EMS) audit of the Waste Commission of Scott County in October 2011. This was ten months after the first audit that was performed in January.

The following observations were made during the EMS Audit:

- Nearly every employee interviewed at Scott County facilities could recite what each letter of the PROTECT acronym stands for. That acronym was created by WCSC to stand for the principles of the environmental policy statement. Posters with PROTECT and employee photos are located throughout the facilities.
- Every Scott County employee is invited to their Annual Dinner where EMS objectives are discussed.
- Scott County has invested a great deal of time and effort into learning the best way to use InteleX Software. They use it to track Action Plans and Goal Progress, ranking Aspects/Impacts, communications, and training. In addition, Scott County uses this system for tracking audit findings (should they have any) and non-compliances, which made it easy for the Audit Team to follow the progress of each Objective and Target.
- Scott County staff presented evidence of progress on Objectives and Targets to the EMS Audit Team. Staff relayed information about project results and presented photos, spreadsheets, advertisements and other data. The EMR and project coordinators were able to give comprehensive details regarding progress on each Objective and Target.
- Scott County dedicates a great deal of time towards keeping the Legal and Other requirements updated.



2011 SCOTT COUNTY EMS SUCCESSES

- Increased shingle recycling from 2,650 tons in Fiscal Year 2010 to 5,500 tons in Fiscal Year 2011
- The Commission’s EHSMS was communicated externally in 8 new ways in 2011; added PROTECT logo to external documents such as Garbage Guide, letterhead, grant forms, banners, website and print ads in three area publications.
- The Core Team developed 8 new tools to communicate the EHSMS to Commission employees, adding the PROTECT logo to things like water bottles that they gave to each employee.
- Put together educational resource binders as information for teachers. Every school got a resource kit that included litter cleanup information, gloves, book, videos and lesson plans.
- Increased awareness of how to backyard compost in Scott County; sold 250 compost bins and rain barrels.
- Installed solar panels on flow meters for leachate pumps and established baselines for all GHG using Wenck model.
- Created spreadsheet of potential e-waste customers and mailed letter to over 1,800 potential customers – saw a 360% customer increase.
- Piggybacked on DNR’s HHM advertising campaign, and added billboards, radio and TV ads. Anyone registering for an RCC appointment online was eligible for a Gift Card. Had 948 appointments in April 2011 – 42% were online appointments.
- Advertised and held Ag event at no charge to farmers; collected 18,000 pounds of HHMs.