



Information Paper

Environmental Management System (EMS) Benefits



This information paper describes benefits of implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS) at the Palm Bay Utilities Department (PBUD). Paragraph one identifies some characteristics of an EMS, and the table at paragraph two identifies changes and related benefits of an EMS at the Utilities Department.

1. Two broad characteristics of EMS benefits include the following:

a. Efficiencies in sustainability -

A structured EMS can produce efficiencies in sustainability in at least two different ways. First, a documented lifecycle EMS fosters the proactive management of environmental issues by identifying, preventing, and correcting or mitigating negative environmental impacts which can reduce risk and operational cost, and help preserve the environment.

A related second characteristic is the EMS plays an integral role in better resource management and performance, which has had a noticeable impact on the Department's bottom line. Within one year of becoming certified, Standard & Poor's, the world's foremost source of credit ratings, indices, investment research, risk evaluation and data, announced that Palm Bay's Water and Sewer Improvement Bond Rating was raised from an 'A-' to an 'A' rating. The higher credit rating means that the Utility can borrow at a lower interest rate because it has been acknowledged to have lower risks to investors. Having the ability to borrow at a lower rate enables the City's utility to stabilize customer costs, minimize rate increases, and sustain levels of service.

b. Attainment of mission and strategic planning objectives -

The EMS has helped the Utilities Department attain and maintain compliance with environmental requirements and accomplish its mission and strategic planning objectives. An EMS is well-oriented to help the Utilities Department manage many of its compliance obligations while accomplishing its mission to "provide superior drinking water, and advanced treatment and disposal of wastewater through an effective utility system reflecting responsible environmental stewardship while striving for 100% customer satisfaction."

Community and organizational goals identified in the Utilities' Strategic Plan have intermediate objectives to show progress is being made toward accomplishment of the goals; the EMS's requirement to measure performance is providing objective evidence that the strategic planning objectives are being accomplished.



Information Paper

Environmental Management System (EMS) Benefits



2. Types of changes realized at PBUD due to an EMS and the benefits from these changes are identified in the following table:

<i>Changes Due to EMS</i>	<i>Benefits from Changes Due to an Environmental Management System (See background paper for additional description of benefits.)</i>
Increased Environmental Awareness, Understanding, and Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Environmental impact reductions ➤ Reduced liability ➤ Increased compliance ➤ Increased management support and involvement ➤ Increased proactivity
Source Reduction (hazardous and toxic wastes, air emissions, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased pollution prevention ➤ Cost reductions ➤ improved safety ➤ Fewer applicable regulations ➤ Spill reductions ➤ Environmental impact reductions ➤ Reduced liability
Resource Consumption Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased affirmative procurement ➤ Increased recycling revenue ➤ Solid waste reduction ➤ Environmental impact reductions ➤ Reduced liability ➤ Decreased use of energy, water, and materials ➤ Increased pollution prevention ➤ Cost reductions ➤ Health and safety benefits
Increased Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Better reputation with stakeholders and community ➤ Environmental impact reductions ➤ Project delay reductions ➤ Decreased employee time (fewer inspections)
Formalized and Optimized EMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduced number of inspections ➤ Written procedures, consistency of process, repeatability ➤ Increased efficiency ➤ Reduction of single-point failures ➤ Continual improvement ➤ Prioritization of funding projects ➤ Reduced liability
Lifecycle Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Environmental impact reductions ➤ Reduced costs ➤ Increased safety ➤ Project delay reductions, change order reductions ➤ Increased number of green building/characteristics ➤ Increased number of sustainability projects ➤ Increased number of pollution prevention initiatives
Intangibles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Better reputation ➤ Better relationship with stakeholders ➤ Increased trust and satisfaction from customers