

Need Help with an Environmental Management System?

Jack Annis

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center provides many programs and services that is at the core of the SHWEC mission, *"to enhance Wisconsin's environment and economy by providing quality education, information and technical assistance to promote the sustainable use of natural resources."* In the next few issues of our e-newsletter, we will be highlighting a specific program or service in more detail. This month we are focusing on Environmental Management Systems (EMS).

What is EMS?

An EMS is simply an organized method of business planning to achieve environmental goals, objectives and priorities that include compliance with regulation, waste reduction, recycling and pollution prevention and resource conservation through continuous improvement. A formal EMS is usually based upon the International Standards Organization method of documenting environmental performance. The documents or "elements" as they are called are contained in a standard called ISO-14001:2004. Whether you register formally to ISO-14001 or not, EMS is generally considered to improve environmental performance and is a good business practice.

Many examples of companies which have implemented EMS are available at the US-EPA Performance Track web site

<http://www.epa.gov/performance-track/index.htm> .



Since 1996, SHWEC has assisted numerous Wisconsin companies in developing EMS for their facilities. Some have registered to ISO 14001 and others have not, but all have found that the information, assistance and guidance provided by SHWEC have helped them considerably. The following publications were developed and are available at the SHWEC web site or simply click on them if your internet browser is capable.

[Environmental Management System \(EMS\) Manual Template](#)

The EMS manual template is the starting point in organizing the EMS. In addition to the manual we will provide the individual elements needed to complete a first draft of your EMS and will even come to your company to assist you with the EMS by completing a free opportunity assessment if you wish. With our assessment visit, the templates and a commitment you can have a draft EMS in less than 90 days! The following two fact sheets can also help understand two of the most troubling elements for most companies. Each fact sheet has numerous internet links to all environmental regulations that as well as EMS resources.

[EMS Development Task 1: Determining Regulatory Requirements](#)

[EMS Development Task 2: Determining Aspects, Impacts, Objectives, Targets](#)

Contact Jack Annis at jannis@uwsp.edu 715-346-2793 for assistance or more information about EMS support from SHWEC.

Recycling at Festivals, Fairs, and Special Events

Joe Van Rossum



The return of warm weather to Wisconsin brings with it many outdoor festivals, fairs and special events. Visitors to these events may leave with many memories, but often leave behind a mountain of trash. Plastic and aluminum beverage containers along with cardboard boxes make up a large portion of this waste and many event planners have made efforts to recycle these materials rather than sending them to the landfill.

Recycling at special events can be a challenging endeavor. There are some resources that are available to help plan for recycling. The following resources focus on recycling behind the scenes as well as recycling for event attendees.

The Wisconsin BeSMART Coalition has created an online tool-kit for event planners. The information provides planners with many ideas and options to reduce waste and increase recycling at their events. In addition to numerous case studies it provides a "checklist for event recycling". The tool-kit can be found online at:

www.besmart.org/festival/index.html.

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Solid Waste has launched a "Recycling on the Go" campaign to encourage recycling away from home. In addition to recycling at special events the website includes guides for recycling at stadiums, shopping centers, and parks. The website can be found at:

www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/onthego/index.htm

The March newsletter from The Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) also focused attention on this issue. The newsletter included many articles of recycling success that have occurred at various events across Wisconsin. For a complimentary electronic copy of the March newsletter contact AROW Executive Director, Karin Sieg at ExecDirector@arow-online.org

Midwest Product Stewardship Council Formed

A Midwest Product Stewardship Council has been created to work on end-of-life product management issues common to many states in the Midwest. Pharmaceuticals, paint, and electronics are some of the waste products local governments currently spend money and staff resources to manage. By working together, a more consistent program/policy can be designed that will effectively handle these products.

Local governments interested in learning more about this approach are invited to participate in one or both of the remaining conference calls. An initial call setting up the council structure and governance was held in April. The call schedule is:

May 14, 10:30 a.m. to noon (CDT), Topic: Financing/securing agency support

June 11, 10:30 a.m. to noon (CDT), Topic: Product selection

The dial in number is 712-580-1100, access code: 56481.

If you would like more information, contact Cynthia Moore, cynthia.moore@wisconsin.gov or Garth Hickle, garth.hickle@state.mn.us.

2008 Household and Agricultural Grant Opportunity

In early June 2007, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) will release grant application materials for 2008. Municipalities such as counties, towns, cities, and regional planning commissions along with special districts interested in applying for household and agricultural clean sweep grant funds can begin early planning activities at this time. \$710,400 will be made available for the 2008 grant cycle. Grant applications will be due back to the Department by mid-July.

All application materials for 2008 grants will be posted to the Department's website as downloadable files. **No hardcopy mailings will occur with the 2008 Request for Proposals (RFP).** Counties can apply for agricultural and/or household grants, but cities, villages, and towns can only apply for household grants. All grantees must provide hazardous waste services for businesses (Very Small Quantity Generators) either on-site OR through referral to an adjacent collection program.

Municipalities interested in applying for 2008 grant funds should take this opportunity to: 1) assess their hazardous waste disposal needs, 2) meet with citizen groups, local businesses, and non-profit organizations to gain potential partners, 3) determine if they want to work with neighboring municipalities to offer multi-governmental clean sweeps, and 4) determine what additional services, (e.g. battery recycling, anti-freeze collection, pharmaceutical collection) they want to add to offer greater value to the "clean sweep experience". Municipalities interested in multi-governmental applications are strongly encouraged to create clear, cooperating agreements (MOUs) which review the responsibilities and duties of each unit and any coordinating committees.

One of the best ways to understand the full demands of Wisconsin Clean Sweep is to review ATCP 34, the Program's governing rule. This rule can be found at ATCP 34:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/atcp/atcp034.pdf> . Should questions arise in advance of the official grant release in early June, please contact Roger Springman, Program Manager at 608-224-4545 or e-mail roger.springman@datcp.state.wi.us .

State Senate Committee Approves Renewable Fuels Legislation

from the Wisconsin Agriculturist

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved legislation on May 2 that would call for 36 billion gallons of renewable fuel use by 2022.

The committee passed the measure by a vote of 20-3, and it will likely be considered on the Senate floor before Memorial Day.

Renewable Fuels Association President Bob Dinneen says the legislation would provide new opportunities for the growth of commercially viable cellulosic ethanol.

"This bill is to cellulosic ethanol what the 2005 energy bill was to grain ethanol," he says. "Combining all the sound provisions of previous renewable energy proposals, this legislation will provide the kind of incentive and opportunity for wide scale investment in the development of ethanol production from materials in addition to grain. Whether it's the fiber in the kernel of corn, the corn stalks left on the field, switchgrass, wood chips or any other agricultural byproducts, we will need ethanol production from all these sources to achieve a more secure and stable energy and environmental future."

Environmental News Briefs of Interest

The following abbreviated news capsules come from the US-EPA News Room at <http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/newsreleases.htm> or from the Wisconsin DNR weekly News at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/news/> The briefs are shortened to conserve space but a link is provided to each story. We encourage you to bookmark both web sites for your references.

Two EPA Grants to Address Proper Disposal of Unused Medications

EPA has awarded grants to the University of Maine Center on Aging, Orono, Maine, and Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS), St Louis, Mo., for \$150,000 and \$150,570 respectively. The

purpose of the grants are to develop alternative stewardship approaches to medication disposal, including "mail back" or "take back" pilot demonstrations. The pilot projects will also include an inventory of the types and quantities of drugs returned. Inventory data could prove useful to the medical community in changing its prescribing practices to reduce the incidence of unused medications. The grants are part of EPA's Aging Initiative to protect the health of older adults, who may be more susceptible to environmental hazards. For more information about the grants go to <http://www.epa.gov/aging/grants/winners/> and for more information on the Aging Initiative: <http://www.epa.gov/aging>

DNR Schedules Public Hearings for State Mercury Emissions Rule Revisions

The Department of Natural Resources has scheduled five public hearings in May for the state mercury emissions rule revisions to be held in Green Bay, Stevens Point, Eau Claire, Madison and Milwaukee. The specific times and locations for these hearings can be found in the public hearing notice available on the Bureau of Air Management's website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/air>. At this website, you'll also find a link to a document containing a table on mercury reduction options for public comment. Comments may be submitted in writing through June 11, 2007.

EPA Will Hold Public Meetings on Managing Non-Federal Mercury Supplies

EPA and its federal partners are establishing a stakeholder panel process to provide the U.S. government with a range of options for better managing non-federal mercury supplies. As part of this process, the panel will hold a series of public meetings over a six-month period beginning with the first meeting in Washington, D.C., on May 8. The public can also provide written comments on the issues the stakeholder panel will address at <http://www.regulations.gov> (Docket Identification Number: EPA-HQ-OPPT-2007-0148). Information about the stakeholder panel and the Roadmap for Mercury: <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/stocks/>

EPA Issues Two Grant Guidelines for State Underground Storage Tank Programs

EPA has issued two final guidelines for states, which implement key provisions of the underground storage tank (UST) amendments of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The inspection grant guidelines describe the minimum requirements states must meet in order to comply with the inspection provisions contained in the Energy Policy Act. The guidelines require states to ensure that USTs not inspected since Dec. 22, 1998 undergo an on-site inspection before Aug. 8, 2007 and then inspected at least once every three years thereafter. EPA is giving states considerable flexibility to establish inspection program. http://www.epa.gov/oust/fedlaws/epact_05.htm#Final

New EPA Tool to Accelerate Watershed Planning

April 18, 2007, EPA released the Watershed Plan Builder, an interactive, Web-based tool to improve efforts by states and local communities in protecting and restoring local water resources. The tool will help local watershed organizations develop integrated watershed plans to meet state and EPA requirements and promote water quality improvements. During the next six months, the Watershed Plan Builder will be available to watershed organizations, federal and state agencies, tribes, universities and local governments to beta test the application and provide feedback. A team of experts from EPA's water programs developed the tool, with input from state, tribal and local agency experts and other local watershed practitioners. For more information: go to the Watershed Plan Builder:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershedplanning/>

EPA Report on Environmental Impacts of Energy Use in Manufacturing Sectors The Environmental Protection Agency recently released a report on energy use trends in 12 major manufacturing sectors. The report concludes with a general overview of the barriers to energy efficiency and use of clean fuel technologies, and offers some possible policy options for government to help address these barriers.

The 12 sectors analyzed in the study account for about 85 percent of all U.S. industrial energy use and the energy consumption across many of these sectors is expected to increase by 20 percent from 2004 levels by 2020 with associated carbon dioxide emissions increasing by 14 percent according to EPA. The complete 2007 Sector Strategies Energy Report is available at the following link

<http://www.epa.gov/sectors/energy/index.html> and for more information on the Sector Strategies Program go to <http://www.epa.gov/sectors/>

SmartWay Trucks Expected to Save Truckers up To \$11,000 Yearly

Truck and trailer manufacturers began offering customers 2007 models certified by EPA's SmartWay program to improve fuel efficiency. SmartWay-approved equipment, like aerodynamic bumpers and mirrors on a tractor, can generate fuel reduction of 10 to 20 percent more than trucks without these devices. For example, aerodynamic bumpers and mirrors on a tractor help conserve fuel by reducing wind resistance. Each qualified truck can produce savings from 2,000 to 4,000 gallons of diesel per year, which would result in a gain up to \$11,000 annually. Participating in the program are well-known truck brands including Freightliner, International, Kenworth, Mack, Peterbilt, and Volvo. For information about joining the SmartWay program, and for a complete list of the specifications for the 2007 SmartWay Tractor and 2007 SmartWay Trailer, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/smartway>

New EPA Asbestos Brochure Targets Auto Mechanics

EPA released a new brochure that provides health and safety information for professional and do-it-yourself mechanics who may work with asbestos-containing automotive components. *Current Best Practices for Preventing Asbestos Exposure Among Brake and Clutch Repair Workers* emphasizes the need to prevent asbestos fibers from escaping into the air during repair work. The booklet provides a list of do's and don'ts for do-it-yourself mechanics. The brochure is available on the EPA asbestos Web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/pubs/brakesbrochure.html>

Small Engine Rule to Reduce Emissions from Lawn, Garden and Watercraft

April 17, 2007 EPA announced a new proposal that sets strict standards for most lawn and garden equipment and small recreational watercraft. To meet the new exhaust emission standards, manufacturers are expected to use catalytic converters for the first time ever in many types of small watercraft, lawn, and garden equipment. The new standards would apply as early as 2011 for most lawn and garden equipment (under 25 horsepower) and 2009 for watercraft. Comments concerning the proposal are due by August 3, 2007. The proposal and information about how to submit comments are at:

- Lawn and Garden (Small Gasoline) Equipment: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/equip-ld.htm>
- Gasoline Boats and Personal Watercraft: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/marinesi.htm>

All Ethanol Production Plants Regulated Under the Same Rules

The EPA issued a final rule in April that assures facilities producing ethanol for human consumption, industrial use or fuel are treated equally under Clean Air Act permitting requirements. The final rule establishes the same emissions thresholds for new facilities that produce ethanol using a feedstock such as corn or sugar beets regardless of the product produced. The final rule also will no longer require facilities producing ethanol for fuel or industrial purposes to count emissions of criteria pollutants that do not come from process stacks or vents when determining if they meet or exceed the emissions thresholds for the Clean Air Act operating permits, non-attainment NSR, or PSD programs. For more information about this final rule: <http://www.epa.gov/nsr/actions.html>

Events, Training, Workshop and Tour Opportunities.....

May 14-16, 2007; **DECON '07 The Buildings Materials Reuse Association** Conference, UW Campus, Madison. Talks and discussion on deconstruction, building materials reuse, and C&D debris recycling. <http://www.union.wisc.edu/bmra/>

June 15-17, 2007; **MREA 18th annual Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair**, Custer, WI. For more information or to resiter go to http://www.the-mrea.org/energy_fair.php or contact the Midwest Renewable Energy Association at 715-592-6595 Fx:715-592-6596 info@the-mrea.org

September 12-14, 2007; **Greening the Heartland/SE2 Conference and Trade Show**, Monona Terrace, Madison. For more information contact the Wisconsin Green Building Alliance at <http://www.wgba.org>