# Environmental Management System City of Dallas

**Laura Fiffick** 

July 26, 2007

### **City of Dallas**

- 13,000 Employees
- 55 "Industrial" Facilities
  - 2 Waste Water Treatment Plants
  - 3 Water Treatment Plants
  - Landfill and Transfer Stations
  - Airports
  - Zoo
  - 6 Major Service Centers
- Over 100 Regulated Entity Numbers with TCEQ
- Thousands of Environmental Requirements

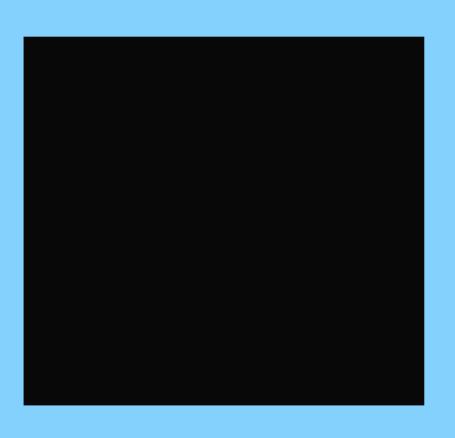


#### Why EMS at the City of Dallas?

- Pre 2000
  - Compliance Concerns
    - No Focal Point
    - Minimal Training
    - Few Policies/Directives
    - Need to Enhance Compliance Monitoring
  - Sustainability Programs Begin

#### Why EMS at the City of Dallas?

Fall 2003 4 Weeks of Media Coverage of Environmental Issues at Service Centers



#### Why EMS at the City of Dallas?

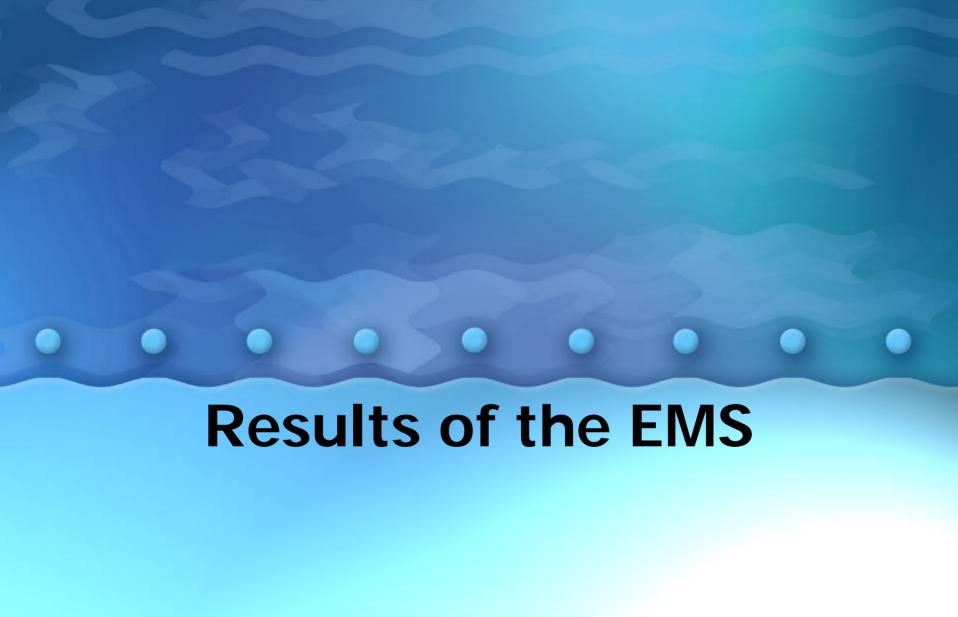
- EPA Inspections of City Facilities
  - EPA Enforcement Order Issued
     Resulting in Penalty (\$800,000 and \$1.2 Million Environmental Projects)
  - Office of Environmental Quality
     Established Reporting to City
     Manager's Office
- Winter 2004
  - EMS Implementation Begins

## **EMS Departments**

Aviation	Sanitation
Police	Fire
Code	Convention Center
Streets	Parks and Recreation
Equipment & Building Services	Dallas Water Utilities
Public Works	

#### Organization of the EMS

- City Manager's Office Stated Each Department Have 0.5 FTE on Average Dedicated to EMS
- Each Department Set Up Cross
   Functional EMS Core Team to Develop and Implement the EMS
- City Wide Procedures and Training Developed by OEQ
- Monthly Reporting to City Manager's Office on Progress
- Due Date: April 30, 2007



#### Compliance

- Systematic Compliance Auditing of City Facilities by OEQ
  - Partnership with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to disclose violations without fear of penalty
- Reduction in Compliance Gaps Noted During Compliance Auditing
- Reporting of Compliance Gaps to Department Director and City Manager



Reduction in Notices of Violation – 19 in FY 2005/2006 2 Thus Far in FY 2006/2007

This leads to a reduction in costs (fines, staff time, attorney's) and improved compliance record

#### **Further Sustainability**

- The City has purchased CNG vehicles since 1994. The EMS set a new goal
  - All new sedans purchased (except emergency vehicles) will be green vehicles (CNG, ethanol, or hybrid)



**CNG Vehicles** 

- All buildings over 10,000 square feet are LEED Silver
  - Monitoring and measurement data will be collected to verify associated environmental impacts in water use, energy use, and waste reduction

#### **New Programs**

- Streets is Recycling Material Collected from the Right of Way
- Police is Considering the Use of LED Lights Instead of Flares Leading to a Reduction in Wastes and Storage of Flammables
- Farmer's Market is Evaluating Composting of Vegetable Waste to be Used by Parks and Rec as Compost Material

#### **Other Examples**

- Improved and Coordinated Environmental Training Programs
- Documented Legal and Other Requirements
- Grant Application Increases
- Employee Participation and Morale
- Increased Communication Between Departments
- Enhanced Agency Relationships

## City of Dallas Ongoing Implementation Issues

- Staff Turnover Has Caused Significant Delays
- Director and Facility Manager
   Commitment is Not Consistent
   Across the City
- Progress on Objectives and Targets is Minimal
- Departments Stray From City Wide Procedures

#### **Lessons Learned**

- Senior Management Support is Crucial
  - This includes City Manager and Dept.
     Director
- Sometimes it Helps to Bring in "Outside" Experts for Reassurance
- Environmental Staff Can't Do it Alone...In Fact the EMS Won't Perform Well Unless Field Staff is Involved
- Don't Get Too Caught Up in Paperwork. The Focus of the EMS Should be Environmental Improvements

#### **Lessons Learned**

- Watch out for the Naysayers
- Develop a Reporting Mechanism for Management
- Use the Carrot and Stick Approach
- To Lead the EMS, Choose Someone with Environmental Experience
- Find an Operational Champion
- Don't Over Commit in Written Procedures
- Educate Staff Early in the Process
- Identify Performance Indicators Early

# City Wide Approach versus Site by Site

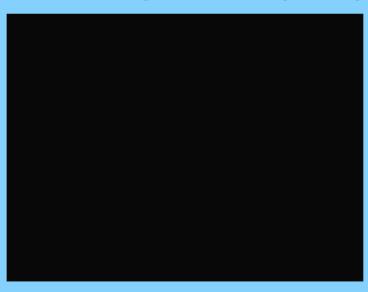
- Each Department is Similar to an Individual Company- Different Aspects, Impacts, Legal Requirements
- Volume of Documentation is Huge
- Cost is High and Staff Commitment Must be Great
- Benefits
  - Sharing of Information and Knowledge
  - Equal Pain Across All Departments
  - Everyone Participates at the Beginning
  - EMS Manages All Initiatives
  - Expansion of EMS is Rare

#### Ranking of the City of Dallas

- SustainLane Ranking
  - The City of Dallas Ranked 24 out of 50 Cities Scored for Sustainability Practices
  - www.sustainlane.com
  - Scored Highest for Internal Sustainability Knowledgebase
  - The City is Working Diligently to Improve Scores for Next Year
- Ranked Number 5 in the US for the Use of Alternative Fueled Vehicles

An Environmental Management System is a Management Process that Drives Change...

In the City of Dallas it is Driving a Change to Be a More Sustainable, Environmentally Friendly City



#### **Contact Information**

Laura Fiffick 214 670 5942

Laura.fiffick@dallascityhall.com www.dallascityhall.com

