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# **Environmental Management Systems (EMS)**

## **A Smart Decision for Local Governments**

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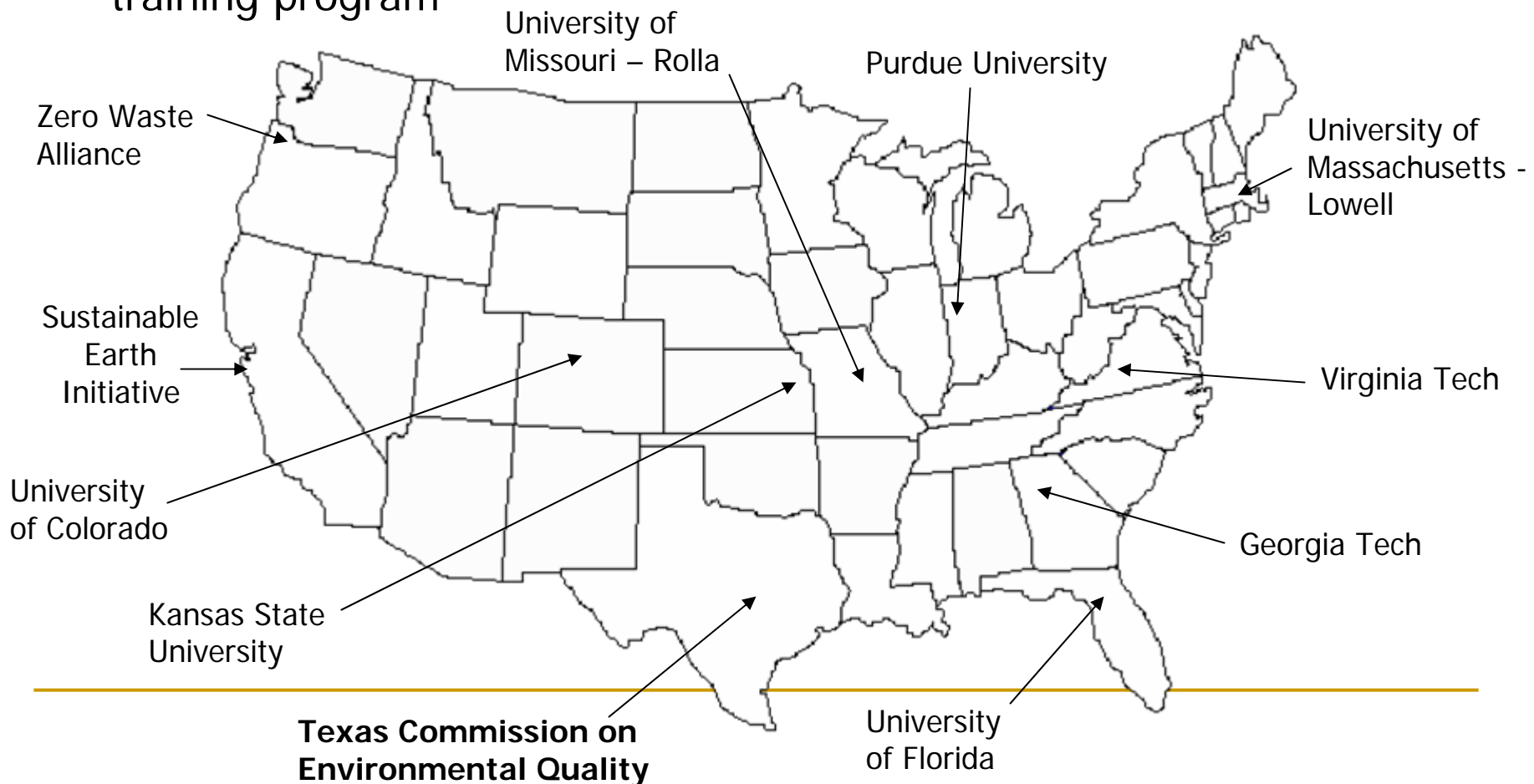


**David James**  
**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**  
**July, 2007**



# What Is EPA Doing to Help Local Governments?

- Designated 11 organizations around the country as Public Entity EMS Resource (PEER) Centers to help local governments
- Since 1997, directly assisted over 30 local agencies through an EMS training program



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# TCEQ's Public Entity EMS Resource Center (PEER)



- TCEQ designated as PEER Center in 2002
- Assists local, county, and state governments with EMS implementation
- Provides specific and case-by-case incentives for sites in Texas with an approved EMS (30 TAC Chapter 90, Subchapter C)
- Emphasizes phase-by-phase method

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<http://www.peercenter.net>

# What Is EPA Doing to Help Local Governments?

The screenshot shows the PEER Center website interface. At the top left is the PEER center logo with the tagline "The One-Stop Shop for Public Entity EMS Information and Resources". Below the logo is a navigation menu with items like "What is an EMS?", "Why Implement an EMS?", "How Do I Implement an EMS?", "Who Can Help Me?", "Select a Sector", and "Public Support for EMSs". A search box is present with "Alaska" entered. The main content area is titled "About the Center" and includes a welcome message, a list of participating organizations (EcoVenture, Kansas State University PPI, University of Colorado CEES, University of Missouri-Rolla IIE), a "Featured Tool" section for an EMS Handbook, an "EMS Spotlight" section for a guidebook, and a "Sector Strategies Program Performance Report". A sidebar on the right contains icons for "Wastewater Drinking Water", "Transportation", "Ports", "Colleges & Universities", "Solid Waste", and "General EMS Implementation Resources". The EPA logo is visible in the bottom left corner of the website content.

- Launched a national clearinghouse of EMS information for local governments – [www.peercenter.net](http://www.peercenter.net)

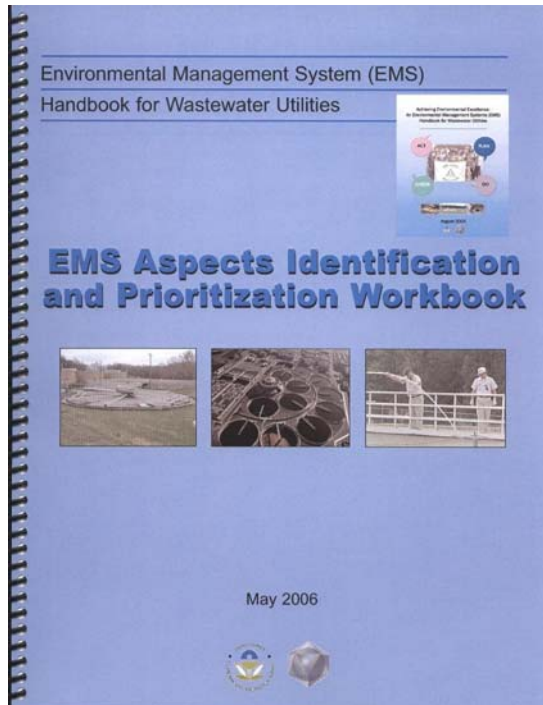
# What Is EPA Doing to Help Local Governments?

- Developed a number of important tools to help local governments understand and adopt EMSs



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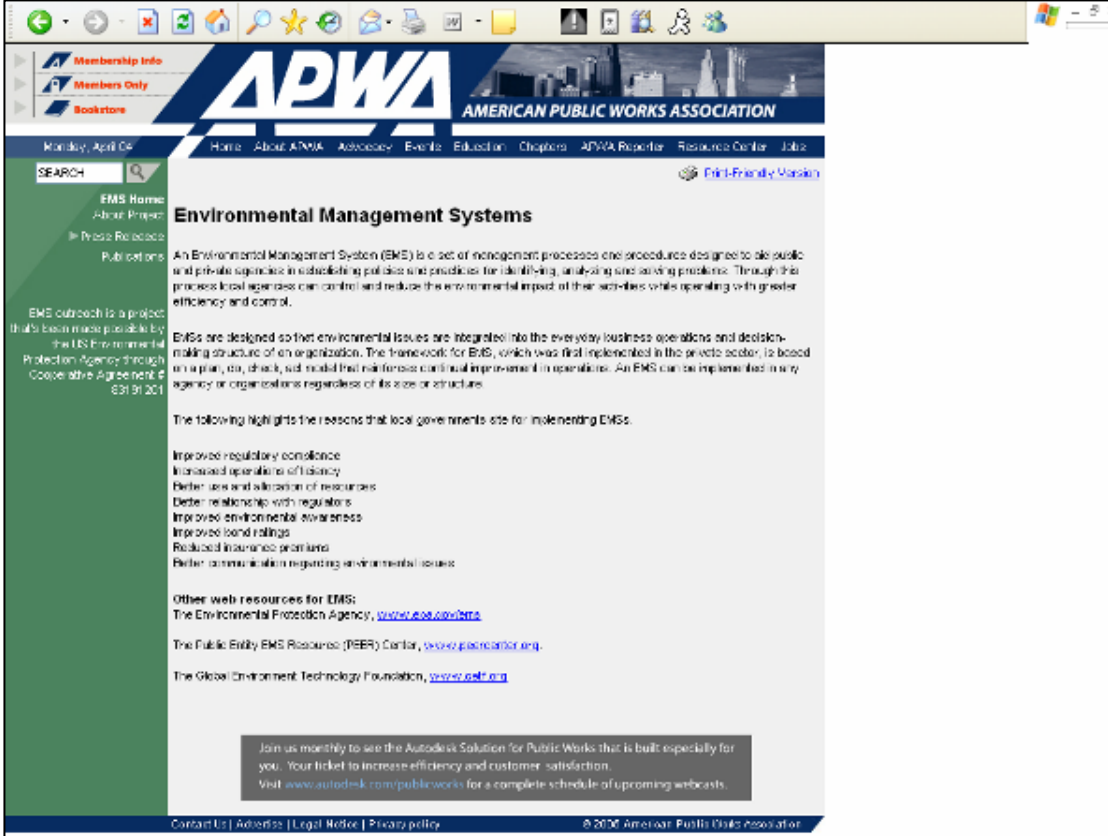
# Free CD-ROM



To receive a copy, e-mail your address to  
[lgean@icma.org](mailto:lgean@icma.org)



# Web Resources



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the APWA (American Public Works Association) website. The page is titled "Environmental Management Systems" and provides a detailed overview of EMS. The header includes the APWA logo and navigation links such as "Home", "About APWA", "Associate", "Events", "Education", "Chapters", "APWA Reporter", "Resource Center", and "Jobs". A search bar is visible on the left side. The main content area defines EMS as a set of management processes and procedures designed to help public and private agencies in establishing policies and practices for identifying, analyzing, and solving problems. It lists several benefits of EMS, including improved regulatory compliance, increased operational efficiency, better use and allocation of resources, better relationships with regulators, improved environmental awareness, improved bond ratings, reduced insurance premiums, and better communication regarding environmental issues. The page also provides links to other web resources for EMS, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, the Public Entity EMS Resource (PEER) Center, and the Global Environment Technology Foundation. A footer banner promotes the Autodesk Solution for Public Works.

**Environmental Management Systems**

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a set of management processes and procedures designed to help public and private agencies in establishing policies and practices for identifying, analyzing and solving problems. Through this process local agencies can control and reduce the environmental impact of their activities while operating with greater efficiency and control.

EMSs are designed so that environmental issues are integrated into the everyday business operations and decision-making structure of an organization. The framework for EMS, which was first implemented in the private sector, is based on a plan, do, check, and model that will foster continual improvement in operations. An EMS can be implemented in any agency or organization regardless of its size or structure.

The following highlights the reasons that local governments cite for implementing EMSs.

- Improved regulatory compliance
- Increased operational efficiency
- Better use and allocation of resources
- Better relationships with regulators
- Improved environmental awareness
- Improved bond ratings
- Reduced insurance premiums
- Better communication regarding environmental issues

**Other web resources for EMS:**  
The Environmental Protection Agency, [www.epa.gov/ems](http://www.epa.gov/ems)  
The Public Entity EMS Resource (PEER) Center, [www.pedcenter.org](http://www.pedcenter.org)  
The Global Environment Technology Foundation, [www.getf.org](http://www.getf.org)

Join us monthly to see the Autodesk Solution for Public Works that is built especially for you. Your ticket to increase efficiency and customer satisfaction. Visit [www.autodesk.com/publicworks](http://www.autodesk.com/publicworks) for a complete schedule of upcoming webcasts.

<http://www.apwa.net/About/CoopAgreements/EMS/>

# Web Resources

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ICMA.org website. The page title is "Environmental Management Systems". The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with categories like "Programs & Information" and "Browse by Topic". The main content area includes an introduction to EMS, a section on ICMA's cooperation with APWA and EPA, and a list of E-Library Documents. The right sidebar features a "news" section with several articles.

**INTERNATIONAL CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**ICMA.org**  
CREATING EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
through professional management

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Interest Groups and Discussion Lists  
Bookstore  
JobCenter  
Services for Local Governments  
Corporate Partners  
Retirement Corp. (ICMA RC)  
Links  
Passwords and Preferences

**Browse by Topic**  
Active Living  
Brownfields  
Career Resources  
Citizen and Resident Participation  
Community and Economic Development

**ICMA : Environment : Environmental Management Systems**

## Environmental Management Systems

Environmental management systems (EMS) are helping a growing number of local governments around the country improve their environmental performance and compliance, reduce costs, improve community relations, and build greater confidence by managers on environmental issues. EMSs provide local governments with a flexible and proven framework for setting environmental goals and reducing environmental impacts through the use of best practices, operational controls, and measurable plans for achieving goals. In certain cases, an EMS can also help reduce insurance premiums and improve bond ratings. For example, the city of San Diego was able to save approximately \$800,000 and significantly reduce air emissions from heavy equipment at its municipal landfill in the first year of implementing an EMS.

ICMA, in cooperation with the American Public Works Association and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is leading an effort to help educate and encourage local government managers to adopt EMSs. ICMA and APWA will conduct EMS outreach events at their national conferences, facilitate regional learning events at state association or chapter meetings, and host a web-based training program. For more information, contact [lgean@icma.org](mailto:lgean@icma.org).

### ICMA E-Library Documents

ICMA's electronic library is regularly updated, drawing from the work of ICMA's extensive publishing, survey, and research divisions.

- This symbol denotes free content.
- This symbol denotes premium content that requires a username and password.

- [Achieving Environmental Excellence: Environmental Management Systems \(EMS\) Handbook for Wastewater Utilities](#) Year: 2004; Pages: 171.
- [EMS: A Better Bottom Line for Local Government](#) Year: 2004; Pages: 2.
- [Continual Improvement in Utility Management: A Framework for Integration](#) Year: 2004; Pages: 118.
- [News and Information on Environmental Management Systems](#) Year: 2003;

### news

- [Tools for Improving Energy Performance](#) Join your colleagues in an Energy Star "Benchmarking for Strategic Energy Management" Web conference on March 16, 2005.
- [ICMA Partners with APWA to Host Environmental Management Systems Webcast](#) ICMA and the American Public Works Association, in cooperation with EPA, will host a webcast, "Environmental Management Systems: A Powerful Tool to Help Local Government Managers and Public Works Directors Minimize Environmental Liability, Increase Efficiency, and Improve Financial Health," on April 12, 2005.
- [Four New Local Resource Centers Launched to Help Local Governments Implement EMS](#) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water has announced the selection of four new Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Local Resource Centers (PEER Centers) to help local governments learn more about and adopt EMSs for their operations.
- [Safety and Environmental Training Available for Fleet Management Facilities: The Local](#)

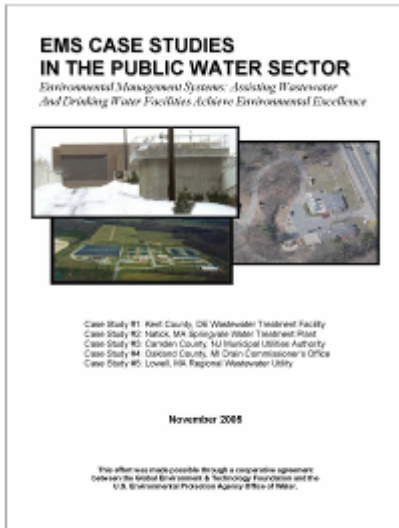
<http://www.icma.org/ems>

# Web Resources

The screenshot displays the LGEAN website within a browser window. The page features a yellow header with the ICMA logo and the text "Local Government Environmental Assistance Network". The main content area is divided into a central grid of images (sunflowers, classical columns, a bridge, a tree, and a landfill) and two vertical columns of navigation links. The left column includes: ABOUT LGEAN, LGEAN PARTNERS, ASK LGEAN, E-MAIL UPDATE, LGEAN TRAINING EVENTS, and SEARCH/LGEAN CITY. The right column includes: WHAT'S NEW?, HOT TOPICS, REGULATORY INFORMATION, TOOLS & RESOURCES, CALENDAR, and CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY. At the bottom, there is a row of partner logos: Water Environment Federation, PERI, NACo, Air & Waste Management Association, American Water Works Association, ECOS, and SWANA. A disclaimer at the bottom states: "LGEAN is managed and operated by the International City/County Management Association, <http://icma.org>. Forward questions or comments about this site to [lgean@icma.org](mailto:lgean@icma.org) or call 977-966-4320. [Our disclaimer.](#)"

<http://www.lgean.org>

# Web Resources

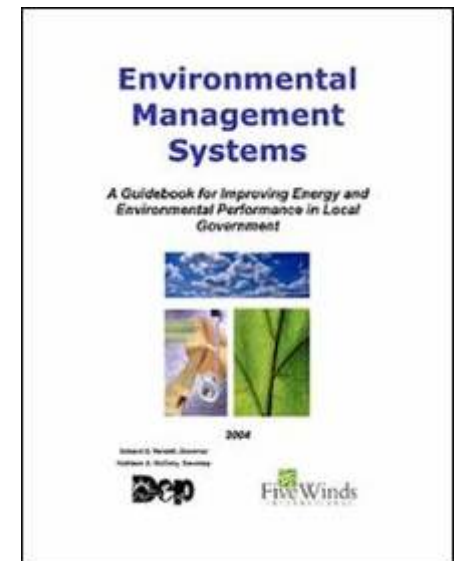


## *EMS Case Studies in the Public Water Sector*

<http://www.peercenter.net/ewebeditpro/items/O73F7557.pdf>

## *EMS: A Guidebook for Improving Energy and Environmental Performance in Local Governments*

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/pollprev/Iso14001/EMSGuides.htm>



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# What Are the Benefits of Adopting an EMS?

- Better compliance, better performance, reduced risks, and cost savings
  - Some examples include
    - Jefferson County, Alabama: EMS helped with improved bond rating; saved millions
    - City of San Diego, California: Saved over \$700,000 in first year of EMS implementation through more efficient equipment use. Savings since 2002 is greater than \$ 5 Million
    - City of Eugene, Oregon: EMS led to national recognition from U.S. EPA and reduced inspections
-

# TCEQ EMS Resources

- Chapter 90 - Regulatory Flexibility - The EMS Rule
- EMS Model for Small Business
- EMS Model for Local Governments (coming soon)
- Stakeholder group activities
- Proposed & approved incentives
- Links to resources
- How to apply for Clean Texas EMS Program
- Evaluation, Verification & Audit Protocol
- TCEQ EMS training information



# Potential Funding Sources for EMS

- Clean Water State Revolving Funds
  - EMS development can be funded as part of a loan from the state.
- State Innovation Grants
  - Several states are using these funds to promote EMS development.
- State Performance Partnership Grants
  - These grants to the states provide greater flexibility to address innovative approaches.
- Supplemental Environmental Projects
  - EMS is one potential application.





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# The "Bottom Line" on EMS

- EMSs are not a gimmick or the "flavor of the month"
- EMSs can and do provide real benefits to local governments
- EMSs give you the flexibility to address issues affecting your community – you set the agenda
- Lots of tools and resources are now available to help you
- There is no time like the present to get started



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# Questions?

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