



CITY POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: C505

REFERENCE:

City Council 2004 05 11
City Council Environmental Strategic Plan 1999 06 22

ADOPTED BY:

City Council 11 May 2004

SUPERSEDES:

A1427

PREPARED BY: Office of the Environment

DATE: April 21, 2004

TITLE: Edmonton's Environmental Management System

Policy Statement:

The City of Edmonton is committed to conscientious and responsible environmental management, practices, and stewardship in all aspects of its corporate activities. This policy establishes the ISO 14001, the international standard, as the benchmark for a corporate Environmental Management System (EMS). Standard Environmental Management System practices across the City will address environmental regulatory compliance, pollution prevention and continual improvement. In addition, the City will continue to demonstrate environmental leadership in the community and to its stakeholders.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a corporate Environmental Management System that will allow the City to employ best available management practices and due diligence by:

Promoting the City of Edmonton's Environmental Vision, "Edmontonians sustain and enhance their environment for present and future citizens, in harmony with the global community", in accordance with the followed principles:

- **Quality Assurance** – The environment is the foundation for our quality of life, health and long term prosperity. Citizens of Edmonton have the right to an environmental adequate for their health and well being.
 - **Shared Responsibility** – Individually and collectively, Edmontonians share responsibility for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment for present and future generations. Edmontonians are accountable for individual and collective action and for failure to take action.
 - **Regional Co-operation** – Environmental issues often span geographical and administrative boundaries. Effective management of such issues requires the joint actions of individuals, communities, businesses, and the City of Edmonton – all working in collaboration with each other
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and with individuals and organisations from beyond our boundaries.

- Continual Improvement – We are committed to ensuring a consistent and high level of environmental quality through cost-effective, sound environmental practices, which allow for continued improvement. Monitoring of outcomes and feedback are essential to continual improvement.
- Integrated Approach – Concerns regarding the environment are not separate from other areas of decision-making and planning. Decisions regarding economics, infrastructure and community are all in some way dependent on the environment and have potential impact on it.
- Participatory Decision-making – Decision-making processes must be informed, participatory, transparent, fair and timely. Decision-makers must both seek and share relevant information in planning and managing resources, considering both short and long-term consequences.
- Sustainability – We are committed to work toward long-term sustainability for future generations. This includes the maintenance of essential ecological processes, life support systems, and genetic diversity, together with the sustainable utilization of resources.
- Proactive Planning – Environmental effects should be anticipated and balanced solutions integrated early in the planning stages of a proposal, before irrevocable decisions are made. In the face of uncertainty, options should be kept open, prudent practices followed and risks minimized. Life cycle implications of projects and services, from inception to decommissioning, are taken into consideration.

And managing environmental risk through the means of:

- A standardized Environmental Management System that demonstrates the due diligence necessary to reduce risk of environmental prosecution.

And furthermore, in accordance with maintaining an Environmental Management System, the City ensures that:

- citizens are informed of the City's Environmental Management System.
 - the status of City Environmental Management System will be reported annually.
 - the City provides adequate resources to maintain and support requirements of a corporate Environmental Management System.
 - the City support whenever possible, environmentally sound products and services and in particular the utilization of post consumer waste (i.e. Green Procurement).
 - the City will promote ISO 14001 with other government agencies, municipalities, environmental groups and related contractors. Many environmental problems extend far beyond the City's boundaries and require a co-operative, regional approach to their management.
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