

**Question 10 - How common are ISO 14001 environmental management systems?**

ISO 14001 environmental management systems are becoming more common every day. Since its introduction in 1996, ISO 14001 has become the most popular environmental management system in the world. Today there are approximately 100,000 registrations in place in 113 countries. In some parts of the world, ISO 14001 registration is becoming a prerequisite for doing business.

**Question 11 - Where in the City of Edmonton will EnviSO be implemented? When?**

Good news! We are not starting from scratch. The Drainage Services Branch and the Waste Management Branch have already blazed the trail by implementing ISO 14001 environmental management systems in their respective branches. A third-party audit of the Drainage Services Branch in January 2005 recommended that the branch receive ISO 14001 registration. The Waste Management Branch is not far behind, expecting to receive its registration in early 2006.

In 2005, seven more branches will begin this journey with a goal to achieve ISO 14001 registration by late 2007:

- **Edmonton Transit**
- **Fire Rescue Services**
- **Land & Buildings**
- **Mobile Equipment Services**
- **Parkland Services**
- **Recreation Facilities**
- **Streets Engineering**

**Question 12 - What about the other 17 branches?**

It's our goal to achieve ISO 14001 registration from one end of the city to the other. That means every operation, no matter how low the environmental risk, needs to be covered by an ISO 14001 registration.

The 17 remaining branches have been assessed as having a low environmental risk. They will be dealt with as an "umbrella group", with the development of a single environmental management system and just one registration. This work will begin in early 2006, with a goal to be registered by late 2008.

**Question 13 - How will this project be managed?**

Implementation of **EnviSO** is an enormous undertaking that will touch every employee in our corporation. A project manager position has been created in each of the seven branches that will begin system development in 2005. Several more project managers will be hired in 2006 to oversee implementation of the umbrella group registration. Reporting to a branch manager, these individuals will oversee all aspects of project management. But they won't do this in isolation. They will work closely with every employee in the branch – providing training, seeking advice, and perhaps even recruiting you to be a member of an implementation team.

**Question 14 - What is my role?**

Over the coming months, all City employees will receive education and training to better understand: a) the elements of **EnviSO**, and b) your role and responsibility within this system. Your participation in developing the system will be encouraged and greatly appreciated. Your ongoing support and adherence to the eventual system will be critical!



City of Edmonton's Environmental Management System



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**Introduction to  
the City of Edmonton's  
Environmental  
Management System**



Environmental protection has become a major consideration in many of the decisions we make as a corporation.

Whether the concern is legal compliance or climate change, management of these issues has become too important to leave to chance. That is why City Council adopted City Policy C505, calling for the implementation of an environmental management system, built on the ISO 14001 Standard.

It is our goal to fully implement this system across the entire corporation by late 2008. It will be known, simply, as *EnvISO*.

#### **Question 1 - What is *Enviso*”?**

*EnvISO* is an environmental management system that will be implemented across our entire corporation by December 31, 2008.

#### **Question 2 - What is an environmental management system?**

An environmental management system is part of the City of Edmonton’s overall management system. It will help us to develop and implement our environmental policy and manage City activities, products and services that interact with the environment

Although there are various environmental management systems available, they all share the “plan-do-check-act” cycle for continuous improvement. *EnvISO* is based on the international standard ISO 14001, which is one of the environmental management standards developed by the International Organization for Standardization in Switzerland. The standard was established following the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, with the aim of providing a uniform set of standards for all types of industries and corporations.

#### **Question 3 - Why does the City of Edmonton need an environmental management system?**

The City of Edmonton is confident that the benefits from *EnvISO* will far exceed the investment of time and money. These benefits include: legal, economic, ethical, commercial, and safety!

#### **Question 4 - What are the “legal” benefits?**

*Environmental System Edmonton* will help the City achieve a high level of legal and regulatory compliance. This

will strengthen our position in an era of increasingly stringent environmental standards. The environment will benefit, convictions, fines, judgments and legal costs will be reduced, and positive relations with regulators will be promoted.

#### **Question 5 - What are the “economic” benefits?**

As the City strives to reduce its environmental impacts (by reducing consumption and pollution) cost savings will follow. The “continuous improvement” philosophy advanced by ISO 14001 will also lead to more efficient ways of doing business. Additionally, ISO 14001 will require a very high standard of documentation – helping the City retain valuable knowledge and information. These resources might otherwise be lost as large numbers of employees retire in the near future.

#### **Question 6 - What are the “ethical” benefits?**

Canadians have an ethical responsibility to improve our environmental performance, given our unflattering ranking as having the world’s third-largest “ecological footprint”. Proven models indicate it takes 7.25 hectares of land and sea to support the average Canadian. If everyone in the world consumed at the Canadian rate, it would take four more Earths to support them! *EnvISO* will help us to do our part to conserve, preserve and protect the resources of the planet in ways that are more equitable to other nations and future generations.

#### **Question 7 - What are the “commercial” benefits?**

*EnvISO* will enhance the City of Edmonton’s corporate image – leading to higher levels of citizen satisfaction, employee pride, and corporate influence. Our achievement of corporate-wide ISO 14001 registration will bolster the

City of Edmonton’s reputation as an environmental leader in North America, making it an even more desirable place for new citizens and business to locate.

#### **Question 8 - What are the “safety” benefits?**

In developing *EnvISO*, employees at all levels of the organization will conduct in-depth reviews of procedures for controlling significant environmental risks. Experience from other ISO 14001 organizations indicates that these reviews typically are able to identify significant safety improvements. A strong correlation exists between environmental control and workplace safety.

#### **Question 9 - Do environmental management systems really work?**

In 2004, researchers at the University of Moncton surveyed 547 Canadian corporations that had implemented an ISO 14001 environmental management system. The vast majority of these corporations indicated that their experience was a positive one, with benefits exceeding costs. When asked if they had to do it again, the vast majority said they would, without hesitation.







## The City of Edmonton's Environmental Management System



### *Message from the City Manager*

The City of Edmonton is an environmental leader on many fronts – through programs we have developed to reduce energy consumption, to measures we have adopted to minimize the use of harmful pesticides. We are a North American leader in developing, commercializing and providing training in sustainable waste management technologies. We are committed to building efficient public transportation systems that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As City of Edmonton employees, you can all take pride in these achievements.

Now Edmonton City Council and the Senior Management Team ask that you fully participate in an even greater challenge as we strive to be one of the most environmentally-responsible municipalities in the world. The challenge is to implement a corporate ISO 14001 Environmental Management System. The name we have given to this highly regarded international system is **EnvISO** (pronounced “en vī zō”).

**EnvISO** will give the City of Edmonton a more rigorous and systematic way of analyzing, controlling and reducing the environmental impacts caused by our activities, products and services. It will help us:

- **Comply with environmental laws and regulations,**
- **Improve our environmental performance,**
- **Document and retain operational knowledge,**
- **Identify and manage our risks more efficiently and effectively,**
- **Strengthen public image,**
- **Improve communication channels to capture good ideas from the frontline for improving operations,**
- **Improve teamwork, communication, and environmental understanding, and**
- **Improve our competitiveness.**

**EnvISO** will provide every City of Edmonton employee with the opportunity to participate in a meaningful effort to protect our environment and build a sustainable city. Achieving success will require the awareness, understanding and deep commitment of each of you. Through your efforts, environmental management will become a cornerstone of our corporate culture and the way we do business.

I have no doubt that staff and management will rise to this tremendous challenge and help to further conserve and preserve our world for future generations. Thank you in advance for embracing this important system and making it a workplace priority.



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