

Overview of EMS Programs in Canada

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Outline

- Inside Canada
- Federal Program Interests
- Industry Sector Programs
- Small-Medium Enterprises
- Environmental Auditing
- Lessons & Challenges
- Outlook
- Conclusions
- Informative References

Objectives

- To outline Canadian EMS and prior CEC-EMS actions
- To profile current EMS activity in Canada
- To set out potentials for new EMS-related needs and applications for CEC

Inside Canada

- Public health, energy and resource issues have dominated policy makers in 2003
- ISO 14001 pre-eminent EMS model in all sectors
- Canada completed CEC implementation plan in December 2001
- CEC Guidance Document & SME Table available, but users & effects are unknown since there is no tracking mechanism
- Canada now engaged in ISO 14001 revision
- Principal EMS issues in Canada—significant aspects, systems integration, documentation & registrar roles

Federal Program Interests

- Canada's sustainability agenda—clean air, clean water, toxics management & climate change
- Government-wide 'greening' & Parliamentary SDS accountabilities
- Stewardship programs (EPR)
- Fewer voluntary & 'challenge' efforts
- Enhanced federal enforcement & compliance

Industry Sector Programs

- Petroleum *EHS Stewardship Program*
- The Whitehorse Mining Initiative (*WMI*)
- Chemical producers' recognized *Responsible Care Program*
- *Canadian Sustainable Forestry Certification* program
- *Environment & Plastic Industry Council (EPIC)* environment program

Small-Medium Enterprises

- SME's represent 95% of registered Canadian companies & 30-60% of North American GDP
- Multiple barriers remain to widening EMS use
- Little funding & fewer SME focused programs
 - CPEQ, Enviroclub, Eco-Efficiency Centre, etc.
- Canadian Pollution Prevention Round Table has an SME pollution prevention project
- New Canadian based *e-Marketplace* - *www.14001Registry.com* and use of EnviroReady™ reports

Environmental Auditing

- Presently at mature state in Canada
- CEAA continues as national certification body
- Use of ISO 19011 underway; ISO 17024—*General requirements for bodies operating certification systems of persons*—on horizon
- Opportunity for Parties to play supportive, or leadership roles in harmonizing certification, practices, training & practitioner recognition

Lessons & Challenges

- Surveys, ‘pilots’ & audits indicate EMS leads to improvements
- Use of EMS’s not fully optimized
- Sector-level EMS is helpful, but not enough
- ISO 14001 use growing, but not at competitive global rate
- Key ‘change’ factors include—public information, incentives, supply-chains, technical support & government leadership, by example
- Purpose & use CEC Guidance Document requires marketplace clarification

Outlook

- Parties need to monitor EMS trends, use & outcomes—auditing & review can help here
- Use public education, supply chains & internet platforms to reach & improve SME performance
- Review 10 elements of CEC Guidance Document for clarity & enhancement
- Promote accountability, emergency & security aspects of EMS use & public reporting
- Encourage more industry collaboration & voluntary investment in EMS, GRI & CSR
- Recognize good practices and beyond-compliance efforts, & support new tools, diffusion & use

Conclusions

- Evidence indicates EMS well in Canada, but more needs to be done—focus primarily on market ‘drivers’ & Canada’s voluntary standards system, not on government or public policy
- EMS use varies by sector—utilities, forestry & auto parts prominent to meet market needs
- Consumer pressure evolving GRI & CSR use
- More leadership, investment & partnership with government required to meet long-term sustainability
- In particular, awareness, education, incentives & technical support required for SME advancement

Informative References

- For environmental legislation & regulations see—
<http://www.ccme.ca>
- For ISO 14000 & Canada's voluntary national standards system see—<http://www.scc.ca>
- For small business research, policy & Industry Canada's Small Business Quarterly (SBQ) see—
<http://strategis.gc.ca/epic/internet/insbrp-rppe.nsf>
- For governments and business enhancing the environment see—The Globe Foundation—<http://www.globe.ca>
- For policy & sustainability research see The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)—
<http://www.iisd.org>