

The Federal Agency EMS Community of Practice

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Overview

- What is the Federal Agency EMS Community of Practice?
- How are we developing new EMS metrics?

Timeline

- ~ 2000-2009 – Interagency Environmental Leadership Workgroup
 - Chaired and convened by EPA
 - Shared information about EMS implementation at Federal agencies
 - Developed initial EMS metrics for OMB Scorecard
 - Developed new metrics in 2008, which were intended to be used for at least 3 years
- 2009-2012 – Workgroup inactive
- 2012 Federal Agency EMS Community of Practice convened
 - No “charter”
 - Open to interested federal staff
 - Driven by members’ interests and needs

Community of Practice Activities - 2012

- Shared current information about EMS implementation at Federal agencies
- Briefed in July by Joe Cascio (former Federal Environmental Executive) about issues in the current revision of the ISO 14001 standard
- Established metrics revision workgroup

EMS Metrics Revision

- Workgroup agreed to develop a revised set of EMS metrics which will address
 - Existence of mature EMSs at many agencies
 - Integration with sustainability goals
 - Need for different metrics
 - for agencies with mature EMSs
 - for agencies implementing EMSs
- Workgroup established two Task Groups to develop initial proposals
- Workgroup expects to have revised EMS metrics available for agency use in 2013

Possible Objectives and Criteria

The Workgroup discussed a variety of possible criteria for revised EMS metrics, including:

- Align with EO requirements and SSPP/sustainability areas
- Streamline EMS tracking to essential points (“not too many!”)
- Provide consistency across agencies
- Provide Department-wide data, based on EMS-level reporting
- Provide a tool that is usable for the field while providing accurate data for HQ
- Help (HQ) EMS coordinators manage
- Improve sustainability performance, supporting continual improvement
- Drive desired behaviors
- Keep consistent with existing reporting requirements, such as the SSPP reporting requirements

Task Group 1 – Review Current (2008) Metrics

Ideas from Metrics Workgroup:

- Part I – streamline and simplify
- Part II – modify, but keep data on
 - three-year independent audits (2nd party EMS audits)
 - declaration status
- Part III – break up into “developing EMS” and “maintaining EMS”; streamline
- Part IV – decide what’s most useful here; streamline into new category 3 metrics
- Part V – keep open-ended narrative responses; fewer questions.

Task Group 2: Identify New Metrics

- Considering several possible indicators of the existence of a functional and robust EMS:
 - Top management involvement in EMS and sustainability
 - Existence of a representative and engaged cross-functional team
 - Integration of sustainability (SSPP) goals into EMS
- Developing specific EMS metrics
 - Metrics specify a score: A / B / C / D
 - Individual metric scores would roll up to a red/yellow/green score for the site
 - Metrics must be applicable to the wide range of federal sites, installations, and facilities which have EMSs
- Looking for additional potential indicators

Next Steps

- Community of Practice
 - Continue to meet on topics of interest
 - Invite participation from additional agencies
- EMS metrics
 - Task groups finish work
 - Metrics Workgroup review/revise
 - Bring to entire CoP for discussion

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