



# Environmental Management Systems

## Environmental Audits and ISO 14000

### Environmental Strategies for Business Success...



#### Environmental Solutions for your Business

KC Environmental Group Ltd. specializes in finding solutions for business and environment. We work with corporate and municipal government clients to improve environmental performance and reduce environmental liability by developing environmental management systems.

#### What are the benefits of implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

An EMS provides organizations with the means to:

- Manage environmental plans and obligations
- Track, evaluate and communicate environmental performance
- Define management processes to identify, control and respond to environmental impact, risks and liability
- Achieve continuous improvement

Implementing an EMS and becoming ISO 14000 "ready" or certified also allows a company to:

- Reduce market barriers
- Demonstrate commitment to environmental management
- Reduce incidents that result in liability
- Demonstrate due diligence
- Obtain insurance at a reasonable cost
- Identify opportunities to conserve resources and reduce costs.

#### Background Facts:

##### What is an Environmental Management System?

An Environmental Management System is a process to manage, track, respond to and improve environmental concerns. Although there are a variety of Environmental Management Systems currently in use, some companies are choosing to develop their EMS in order to become ISO 14000 certified.

The most effective EMS processes are fully integrated into organizational structures and include the following components:

- Environmental commitment and policy
- Planning
- Implementation and operation
- Measurement and evaluation
- System review and continuous improvement

##### What is ISO 14000?

ISO 14000 is a series of voluntary international standards that provide guidance to companies who are interested in integrating environmental considerations into every business decision. The standards are also a valuable tool to establish processes capable of demonstrating due diligence.

The standards set out in ISO 14001 are applicable to any organization that is interested in developing, implementing and/or improving an environmental management system.

##### What is an Environmental Audit?

An environmental audit is an objective, verifiable and systematic business tool designed to document an organization's present and past environmental risks. As such, it is an invaluable tool to identify opportunities to improve environmental performance.

# Environmental Strategies for Business Success...



## A Sample of KC Project Achievements Include:

- Project:** Design and Implementation of an Environmental Audit Management Process  
**Client:** County of Strathcona  
**Description:** Currently developing and implementing an Environmental Audit Management Process that provides a systematic, documented, periodic and objective review of the municipality's operations, practices and policies regarding environmental impacts. The two year process includes the preparation of a computerized process model and departmental audits. This project will provide the County with the ability to track environmental issues proactively manage environmental planning and ultimately improve environmental performance.
- Project:** Introduction to ISO 14000  
**Client:** Alberta corporations  
**Description:** Hold luncheon seminars to introduce Alberta corporations to the latest developments in ISO 14000.
- Project:** Oxbridge Place - Environmental Management Plan  
**Client:** Alberta Environmental Protection  
**Description:** This project included the development of a reporting system, education program, waste sort program, a complete water balance, and set specific waste, water, and energy reduction goals.
- Project:** ISO 14000 Industry Workshop  
**Client:** Chennai, India  
**Description:** KC Environmental Group Ltd. teamed up with CDC Engineering Consultants Inc. of Vancouver to hold an ISO 14000 workshop in Chennai, India in February, 1998.

## What is the KC Environmental Group Ltd. approach?

We work with clients to identify specific environmental challenges and appropriate solutions. Our process can include environmental audits, environmental management systems and preparation work to achieve ISO 14000 international environmental certification.

We use a "building block" approach to implement environmental management systems. This means we work with companies to build on existing systems and develop responsible environmental management, one step at a time. The building blocks of an effective environmental management system (EMS) include:

- Review and improve existing environmental policy
- Identify potential sources of environmental liability and compliance requirements
- Conduct environmental audits
- Build on existing systems to implement a comprehensive Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Implement measures to achieve and demonstrate due diligence
- Work with clients to establish corporate procedures to achieve continuous improvement

Once these steps are complete, we also offer services designed to assist corporations in the achievement of ISO 14000 certification. We:

- Liaise with ISO 14000 registrars
- Provide ISO 14000 and EMS training
- Work with you to build on your EMS to meet the ISO standards.

## An Example of Success...

As a precursor to an EMS, KC Environmental Group Ltd. in partnership with Western Environmental Perspectives has developed a computerized system to manage a comprehensive environmental audit process (i.e. regular audits of all departments within the corporation).

This system allows organizations to establish an initial environmental "baseline," identify environmental issues and compliance needs, track program changes and ultimately demonstrate due diligence. Designed in components, it can be tailored specifically to any client's needs.

- For a complete project listing or a copy of our brochure, please contact:



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**Fact Sheet**