Survey helps bridge communication gap regarding city’s environmental efforts

By LINDA GIANNELLI PRATT
City of San Diego Environmental Services
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San Diego region's most important economic activities — tourism and agriculture — rely on the area's exceptional climate. San Diego County ranks as the 20th largest agriculture producer in the nation, and it is clearly one of the biggest tourism destinations. That translates into more than $5 billion annually for the

City Organization
89,628

Community
Annual GHG Reduction (Tons CO2)
Expanding composting programs
1,172,626
10,438

Tracking fuel-efficiency of city vehicles


Even though San Diego’s primary water source, the Colorado River, San Diego Water Authority and the City of San Diego have maintained a robust water supply during recent droughts, it is clear that the region’s water supplies are limited. The region’s water quality ranked sixth out of the 11 states in the nation in the American Water Watch’s 2004 report card. The city and county both operate public wastewater treatment plants, which create a by-product of sewage gas called methane, which is a by-product of sewage treatment and decomposition of organic materials at solid waste landfills. The city’s leading energy consumers are the massive pumps required for the water treatment and distribution system and the sewage treatment system. Therefore, water conservation saves energy, which reduces GHG created from power plants. Our reliance on imported water and energy does not remove our responsibility for the emissions created elsewhere on our behalf.

Significant reliance on imported energy and water. Virtual economic sectors, including agriculture and tourism. Cognizant of these threats, city leaders have begun taking a serious look at the ramifications of a changing climate in the San Diego region. The question may be asked, “Since this is a global problem, what difference can one city’s actions make?” The unanimous answer from Mayor Dick Murphy and the City Council is clear. This does not have to be a political issue, but rather an opportunity to do the right thing.

San Diego’s actions, and those of nearly 1.2 million tons per year by decreasing municipal energy and water consumption, improving fuel efficiency and expanding the use of methane gas from sewage treatment plants and landfills. In doing so, the city saved more than $15 million annually.

At the culmination of this period, in January 2002, Murphy and the City Council approved San Diego’s Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Plan, later retitled the Climate Protection Action Plan. The new plan establishes a climate-protection target of 15 percent reduction in GHG emissions, using 1990 as the baseline. Phase Two of the Climate Protection Action Plan, which covers the period 2003-2010, includes greater use of alternative energy sources such as solar and geothermal panels and landfill gas, along with further improvements in energy efficiency, water conservation, and fuel-efficiency in half of recycling and waste programs, and supporting the region’s economy.

When it comes to the environment, it takes teamwork to do the right thing. That’s why at Pardee Homes, we ask our homeowners to join us in choosing conservation as a way of life. All of our new homes are designed to meet ENERGY STAR® standards. To this, homeowners can add a fluorescent lighting package, water-efficient landscaping and sustainable features from our groundbreaking LuvnasSaver® program available in select neighborhoods. We’ll also be building some of the nation’s very first Zero Energy Home® possibilities, creating home environments that save energy and generate their own electricity.

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The Capital Area East End Complex features an under-floor air distribution system, which is said to make a trying to figure out by myself. It can cost tens of thousands of dollars just to get a new, more energy-efficient one.

"I'm not going to touch this," he said, admiring one of the red leaves most of them standing — growing. Like many small-forest owners, Henrikson logs his own land, letting the best stuff keep growing.

Stewardship Council.

But he can't afford it. It can cost close to $11,000. But as a charter member of the Storm Water Compliance Group, he must comply with environmental regulations; and seek certification under ISO 14001. He gets a reward for any organization that has an ISO 14001 series that provides a specific procedure for an effective environmental management system.

But he's found that it's easier said than done. ISO 14001 helps organizations to demonstrate responsibility, but the unique environment management system must set its own policies, determine its own scope and purpose. The goal of ISO 14001 is to assist an organization's policy and objectives. ISO 14001 requires that policies need to be in place; however, each organization is free to define and implement those elements.

In essence, the ISO 14001 standard is a self-assessment tool that wishes to implement, management must decide to define and implement its own environmental management system; it is composed of the following four elements: the organization manages its environment; its environmental management system includes four steps: and from well-regarded experts. The Standard was exceeded on 13 days. In 2003, San Diego's neighbors to the north reached the California standard for ground-level ozone, which can aggravate asthma and other respiratory problems. That's why businesses need to participate in projects that help improve air quality and show the world that they care about the environment.

The primary goal of ISO 14001 is to help businesses become more environmentally conscious. It does this by helping them identify and measure their environmental impacts and establish goals and objectives for reducing them. The standard requires organizations to implement an environmental management system (EMS) that includes:

- Identification of environmental aspects and impacts;
- Setting of environmental objectives and targets;
- Implementation of planned actions to achieve those objectives;
- Measurement and monitoring of effectiveness.

In order to be effective, all of these procedures need to be in place. ISO 14001 helps organizations to demonstrate responsibility, but the unique environment management system must set its own policies, determine its own scope and purpose. The goal of ISO 14001 is to assist an organization's policy and objectives. ISO 14001 requires that policies need to be in place; however, each organization is free to define and implement those elements.

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To prepare for an EMS to be both complete and effective, organizations need to:

1. Get more information. Obtain copies of ISO 14001 and ISO 14004 and study the ISO or the American National Standard to become familiar with the standard.
2. Conduct a gap analysis. Compare current management systems to the requirements of the ISO 14001 standard.
3. Form a project to improve. Based on the gap analysis, identify what elements of your current systems will need improvement in order to meet the requirements of ISO 14001.
4. Change your business processes. A project management and a Gantt chart, which outlines "how to" steps for approaching the official certification and implementation. ISO 14001 helps organizations to demonstrate responsibility, but the unique environment management system must set its own policies, determine its own scope and purpose. The goal of ISO 14001 is to assist an organization's policy and objectives. ISO 14001 requires that policies need to be in place; however, each organization is free to define and implement those elements.

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