

CALL FOR PAPERS

Learning Together Workshop 2002

**▶ Moving to Higher
Environmental Performance
Using EMS and Other Tools**

**▶ *June 3 - 4, 2002
Wyndham Orlando Resort
Orlando, Florida***

Hosted by:

Multi-State Working Group on Environmental
Management Systems

Co-hosted by:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
University of Florida, Center for Training, Research and Education for
Environmental Occupations (TREEO)

► ABOUT THE SPONSOR

MSWG is an organization that convenes government, non-government, business and academic interests to conduct research, promote dialogue, create networks and establish partnerships that improve the state of the environment, economy and community through systems-based public and private policy innovation.

Since 1998, MSWG has sponsored an annual workshop, each June or July, with support from EPA and businesses. It is a “hands-on” event that hosts EMS practitioners from the U.S. and abroad. The workshop has grown to almost 300 at our largest workshop.

The 2002 workshop is June 3-4 in Orlando, Florida at the Wyndham Orlando Resort. We are seeking abstracts from authors around the following themes. For more information about MSWG and previous workshops, please visit www.mswg.org.

► WORKSHOP THEME

Business and government have an imperative to move to higher levels of environmental performance. The workshop will contain several sections that address recent activities, trends and tools to achieve this high performance, including:

- Environmental management systems, and lessons from early adoptors
- EMS registration trends and challenges
- Performance metrics, including environmental, economic and social factors and business values
- Regulatory initiatives incorporating EMS and other performance enhancing tools
- Transparency and increasing stakeholder involvement

There is an increasing desire by stakeholders to understand and influence environmental performance. There are several questions that we seek to answer:

- How can we better define and meet the expectations of our stakeholders?
- What steps must industry take?
- What kinds of measurement and reporting practices would government, industry, public facilities, NGOs or academics propose

as useful in public policy? What is the relationship between external communications and the internal functioning of EMSs?

- What is the international experience with the promotion of higher environmental performance levels and/or improved project planning (whether through the utilization of EMSs or otherwise)?
- What are the performance enhancing tools available to government, business and the public interest sector such as EMS, strategic goals, market tools, partnerships, incentives, performance reporting and strategic enforcement?
- What catalyst role must government play to promote higher performance and transparency?
- What environmental improvements have been realized within specific sectors such as automotive, agriculture, universities, federal facilities or others?
- What are our continuing experiences with the benefits with EMS implementation?

► WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

To be considered, a one-page abstract should be submitted to MSWG via its Web-based abstract submittal form by October 31, 2001. Please visit the MSWG Web site at www.mswg.org for author/presenter submittal information. Authors whose abstracts are selected will be notified by e-mail by December 14, 2001. Accepted abstracts will be published on the Web on or before January 31.

Abstracts should be sent to:

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Workshop registration information may be found on the MSWG Web site at www.mswg.org. For information on the workshop or information about becoming a sponsor, contact workshop co-chairs Bill Engle, Jr., Ph.D., University of Florida, TREEO, (352) 392-9570, bengel@treeo.doce.ufl.edu or Douglas B. Johnson, Ph.D., Environmental Intelligence, Inc., (612) 387-3430, douglasbjohnson@earthlink.net.