

ISO 14001 at EPA's

May 13, 2002

Environmental Science Center

Paper Consumption Workgroup Formed

Now we get to the fun part

As was mentioned during the EMS Coordination Sessions in March, we have completed the planning phase and are now solidly into the implementation and operation of our EMS. And we said that this is the fun part where we will get an opportunity to use our creativity, right ? Well, our first formal workgroup was launched recently, this one to develop a creative strategy to improve our paper consumption performance.

The workgroup was asked to analyze the data available on the amount, and type of paper we consume and also the amount that gets recycled (members of the group were recently seen inspecting trash and recycling containers in the A-wing, now that's data collection !) They will then develop ideas for how we might improve our performance in those same three areas - amount, type (e.g., recycled content), and recycle rate. Their report is due to the EMS Team in a few months. The EMS Team will bring the suggestions forward to the ESC Board and together we will decide which suggestions to implement. Stay tuned and if you have any ideas, send them to a member of the Paper Consumption Workgroup.

Other EMS News ...



Our thanks to Matt Buccini of Four Seasons Environmental for the *EMS Idea of the Month*. Matt noticed that many wire coat hangers were being thrown away at the drop points for uniforms and lab coats. He asked "Why not recycle them ?" Well, after making a few phone calls we learned that both Ft. Meade Recycling and the vendor, Rainbow Uniforms, were willing to take the hangers for recycling. Preference went to the vendor, and Rainbow will now pick-up and reuse the hangers. Hanger recycling racks have been placed near the Region III lab coat racks and in the basement for uniforms (investigating need in the OPPTS area).

The EMS Internal Audit Group had its first meeting. Our first internal audit is tentatively scheduled for June 18-20.

We have chosen a Registrar ! Quality Systems Registrars Inc. (QSR) will perform the independent audit later this summer. to determine whether our EMS conforms to the EMS standard ISO 14001.