



Case Study

Environmental Diploma and EMAS



Background

LFF is the City of Göteborg's Administration for the Supply of Premises. The organisation is responsible for supplying materials to hundreds of public buildings in Göteborg, notably for schools.

LFF's experience in implementing environmental management systems is somewhat unique in that the organisation first started with EMAS registration in 2001, and then implemented the Environmental Diploma one year later in 2002 as a complement to EMAS. LFF uses both the Environmental Diploma and EMAS simultaneously for their environmental management needs.

Reasons for EMAS Registration

LFF decided to implement the Environmental Diploma in addition to EMAS because the company felt that the Environmental Diploma was better suited for more detailed technical issues such as the management of chemicals and paints. Nonetheless, the company considers EMAS more advantageous in terms of addressing more global issues, such as the overall energy use of the company, legal requirements, and communication.

The Implementation Process

The main difficulties in the EMAS implementation process included having a sufficient amount of staff time and resources to fully commit to maintaining both EMAS and the Environmental Diploma. Therefore, in 2007, two new departments were created. The Energy department was established to implement the Environmental Diploma and to address technical and energy issues such as use of heating and reducing energy consumption. The Environmental Department was created to implement EMAS and to address more global issues such as changing everyday behaviour to reduce environmental impacts.

Benefits of an EMAS Registration

LFF considers the communication requirements of EMAS as one of the main benefits of EMAS registration. The company strives towards improving environmental performance, since EMAS makes their environmental performance open and transparent, both internally within the company and externally with the public and stakeholders. Further, the EMAS structure is easy to follow, making it more feasible to track progress.

Advice for other Organisations

Implementing both the Environmental Diploma and EMAS has allowed LFF to cover all environmental aspects of the company's activities, at both the individual and the company level. LFF's main advice to other organisations is to ensure that there is sufficient time and staff resources to focus on EMAS. Indeed, the company feels it is important to create a specific department to address the environmental management needs of an organisation fully.