



Below are highlights of current GETF projects being implemented in the United States:

U.S. EPA Environmental Management System Pilot Projects

Through cooperative agreements with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, GETF has successfully facilitated four national pilot projects, leading the development and implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMSs) involving 43 public entities and port authorities. Partners in the pilot projects have included a range of sectors, such as an electric utility, a convention center, universities, departments of public works, and landfill operations. The project uses field-tested tools and expertise through a combination of on-site visits, all-hands workshops, and one-on-one technical assistance for each public entity to design a structured approach to managing their environmental and security responsibilities. For each “flight”, GETF provides (or has provided) training and technical assistance, including program planning, implementation strategies, materials, and auditing support in the application of an EMS based on the ISO 14001 international standard. In partnership with the U.S. EPA and the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), GETF has facilitated the following EMS pilot projects:

Energy Management Systems Training for Water and Wastewater Utilities

GETF designed and developed and facilitated several workshops around the country in partnership with different U.S. EPA Regional Offices. The Energy Management Workshops are based on the *Energy Management Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities*, a resource developed by GETF for U.S. EPA. The curriculum provided participants with an understanding of applying the management system approach of ‘Plan-Do-Check-Act’ to managing energy conservation and identifying opportunities for energy efficiency. As a follow-on effort to the workshops held in U.S. EPA Region 1, GETF developed a follow up action template (currently being implemented) that includes mini workshops and one-on-one technical assistance and site visits to participants of the workshops. This model is being designed for replication to other U.S. EPA regions around the country.

Environmental Management Systems for Water and Wastewater Utilities

GETF developed the *Energy Management Guidebook for Water and Wastewater Utilities*. This robust, step-by-step guidebook provides water and wastewater utilities with a systems approach for utilities to identify, implement, measure, and improve energy efficiency and renewable opportunities at their facilities. In conjunction with the development of the Guidebook, GETF facilitated a one-day workshop within U.S. EPA Region 1, focusing on EMS and energy management using the ‘Plan-Do-Check-Act’ management approach. The curriculum for the workshop was based on the *Energy Management Guidebook for Water and Wastewater Utilities*. GETF developed the training materials, provided copies of the guidebook for participants (over 100) and facilitated two one-day workshops (the first was held in December 2007; the second was held in March 2008).

Based on the *EMS Handbook for Wastewater Utilities*, GETF developed an interactive web-based tool to support and help water and wastewater utility managers develop and implement an EMS at their facility. This interactive tool covers a full EMS implementation cycle ('Plan-Do-Check-Act') and contains information on the most important EMS elements and concepts (i.e., implementation tasks that commonly require the most training). The tool's approach is similar to that utilized in the *EMS Aspects Workbook*, whereby users are guided to specific resources for additional context, allowing the interactive tool to focus on critical training points and exercises.

GETF also developed an *Environmental Management and Asset Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities Pamphlet*. This pamphlet demonstrates for utility managers the potential intersection of asset management and EMS activities that can be integrated. The pamphlet includes information about EMS and asset management, as well as an examination of logical connection points. Also included are two case studies that review how two wastewater utilities recognized the mutual benefits of their EMS and asset management programs, with one utility integrating their EMS and asset management plans as they were developed and the second realizing the overlap of EMS after developing an asset management program.

American Association of Port Authorities/GETF Ports Assistance Project

Similar to the U.S. EPA EMS National Initiatives, GETF has partnered with the American Association Port Authorities (AAPA) to provide a full range of management system implementation assistance to over 20 seaports. The format is based on the successful model developed in partnership with U.S. EPA as described above. In addition to environmental management systems as the core curriculum, GETF has also provided as part of this effort Security Management System Training – or SMS – to several ports to help identify and manage their security vulnerabilities.

- Third EMS Ports EMS Assistance Project (August 2008 – ongoing)
- Second EMS Ports (November 2005 – December 2008)
- First EMS Ports Assistance Project (September 2003 – January 2006)

National Public Entity EMS Resource (PEER) Center

An important outgrowth of the successful Environmental Management Systems implementation projects is the Public Entity Environmental Management Systems Resource (PEER) Center, an online clearinghouse of EMS information located at www.peercenter.net. The PEER Center serves public entities, including state, county, and local governments, federal agencies, and those organizations and associations that provide support to meet the needs of public entities. GETF unites its well-respected EMS expertise and its online information sharing prowess in the online PEER Center, which provides guidance, tools, and training related to EMS generation and implementation. It provides useful connection to technical assistance, real-life mentors, and problem-solving strategies to make EMS creation a simpler process with the most applicable end result.