

EnviroShare EvMS External Steering Committee

Notes from EvMS Steering Committee March 4th 2011

This first meeting of Hall County's Environmental Management System (EvMS) was held in the conference facility of Lanier Charter Career Academy from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Sheri Henshaw, Bartow EvMS Coordinator

Sheri Henshaw, Bartow EvMS Coordinator stated she has agreed and has approval to mentor one on environmental management system--Hall County. We can perhaps mentor Eatonton and move it forward. Sheri has offered peer matching with Bartow partners for us to work with.

Step 1- Find a champion with a goal: You need a champion. Commissioner Bell, you are it. Commissioner Brown is Bartow's champion. His goal is to improve Bartow's air quality.

Step 2- Make a plan: Reduce air emissions via formation of Bartow EvMS. Work with the community
Major point: started with just one goal.

Step 3- Create a committee with plan in mind. Bartow's steering committee was formed in 2003. First partners-Bartow County and both school systems.

Step 4- Involve Business and Industry. Chamber can be a key player in that regard. Chamber helped to add industry partners- GA Power, Anheuser Busch, Shaw Industries. GA Power had their lawyer present at meetings at first. GA Tech, P2AD, and UGA provided technical assistance.

Step 5- Provide office and staffing for EvMS. Sheri Henshaw-Director, Missy Phillips-Assistant Director

Internal steering committee meets prior to each external steering committee meeting. Biggest challenge is getting records, reports, and data from partners. Department heads on internal steering committee attend at the behest of County Administrator.

Need to focus on areas where we need to have change happen. Work in areas of concern/impact.

Solution: Choose only what impacts your community as a focus for group efforts. It should make sense to the average citizen, not experts. Goals should be achievable but not easy.

Obstacle- Establishing baselines for measurement-needed help from experts on this.

Solution: Focus on one goal per partner/year. Have a one page report and ask partners to report on one goal per year. Don't exclude anybody because they are slow to report. Try to visit each partner once per year-keep them engaged. Focus on how EvMS can grow local economy, stimulate job creation.

Internal steering committee-focuses on how we can save money.

Perks of EVMS:

Improved quality of life

Being recognized

Networking with like minded partners

Pooling resources for greater impact

Providing resources to your partners
Trainings and educational opportunities for partners.

Diana Trettin, Georgia Sustainability Division

Partnership for Sustainable Georgia is available for training sessions. There is an energy workshop being planned for May.

Mary Talukder- Mission and Vision

“Vision” from Wikipedia: “Defines purpose normally from top leadership or committee.”

Mission: what can and does EVMS committee do to contribute.

Keep it short. Make it clear. Vision guides the mission. See if you can attach ROI to metrics. See calculators on Sustainability Division website.