



Success Stories

April – June 1999

Brief Descriptions; Full Stories Follow Descriptions

- 1. Air Monitoring Phone Lines**
Reducing telecommunications costs.
- 2. Air Quality Field Data**
Safer and more efficient field data retrieval and record keeping.
- 3. Working to Reduce Waste at Basin Frozen Foods**
Assessment of business practices to reduce water usage.
- 4. Working to Improve Water Quality Near Everett**
Agreement to combine efforts in a shared project to reduce pollution.
- 5. ShipShape**
Technical Assistance Strategy to reduce boatyard and marina pollution.
- 6. Managing Washington Conservation Corps Data**
Avoiding duplication and costs between agencies.
- 7. Bibliomaker**
Making publications available on-line and linked to full text of rules and regulations at
<http://www.wa.gov/ecology/biblio/rpsearch.html>
- 8. Hanford Permit on CD Rom**
Large permit (3,500 pages) available on CD Rom saving printing costs.

1. AIR MONITORING PHONE LINES

Problem

Staff in our Air Quality Program took the initiative to get to the bottom of their telecommunications costs for air monitoring system. The system consists of 80 remote air pollution monitors linked to a central computer in Lacey. On an hourly basis, every day, data is sent via many phone lines to the main computer.

Solution

Staff determined the air program could save money by piggybacking the monitoring data onto the agency's wide area network.

Results

Projected savings of \$38,000 for the biennium after an initial investment of \$10,000.

Contact

Curtis Carpenter, 360-407-6845 or cuca461@ecy.wa.gov

2. AIR QUALITY FIELD DATA

Problem

Staff in our Air Quality Program retrieve air quality samples (filters taken from monitoring equipment) every one to three days from 18 monitoring stations located throughout the state, regardless of weather conditions. Most sites are located on roof tops (i.e. the roof of a mall or a school). At the site, the filter was retrieved and weighed. The weight and other parameters, such as temperature, were recorded on a lap top computer at the site.

Solution

Staff envisioned and developed a safer and more efficient sample retrieval and record keeping system. Although the sample stills needs to be collected every one to three days, record keeping is now handled electronically via the program's telecommunications system.

Results

Reduced time a person is in the field and elimination of lap top computer use, maintenance and support resulting in \$14,000 per year in savings and one FTE.

Contact

Stan Rauh, 425-649-7115 or srau@ecy.wa.gov

3. WORKING TO REDUCE WASTE AT BASIN FROZEN FOODS

Problem

Basin Frozen Foods, a manufacturer of frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, wants to expand their facility. They were informed by the City of Warden their water use and wastewater discharge to the city's wastewater treatment facility could not increase.

Solution

A team of Ecology staff assessed the business practices at Basin Frozen Foods to look for ways to economically reduce their water use and discharge to allow for the facility expansion.

Results

Through recommended changes in their business practices, Ecology staff identified ways to reduce water usage by 70% (121,500 gallons per day) and save the company \$10,770 annually (it is up to the company to implement the recommendations).

Contact

Christa Colouzis, 425-649-7143 or cboe461@ecy.wa.gov

4. WORKING TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY NEAR EVERETT

Problem

Kimberly Clark's Everett pulp and paper mill needed to replace and upgrade its existing wastewater discharge system. In a separate effort, the City of Everett had been working with Ecology to reduce their pollution discharges from their municipal sewage treatment plant.

Solution

Discussions between Kimberly-Clark and Everett lead to a milestone agreement to combine their efforts in a shared project that will mutually benefit both and lead to a reduction in pollution in the shallow waterways around Everett.

Results

This agreement begins the process to construct wastewater discharge piping that will be completed in the year 2004. It is projected that between 8 to 14 million gallons per day of the city's municipal wastewater will be reused in the Kimberly-Clark mill before being combined and discharged in the deep water of Port Gardner.

Contact

David Wright, 425-649-7059 or dwri461@ecy.wa.gov

5. SHIPSHAPE

Problem

It is estimated that 50,000 boats are permanently moored in Puget Sound and thousands more are trailered in for occasional use. The combined impact of individual actions involving oil, sewage, detergents, paints, strippers, thinners, solvents and trash are some of the pollution problems associated with marinas and boating.

Solution

Staff developed a technical assistance strategy to familiarize boatyards with new permit regulations and marinas with best management practices to reduce pollution. They were surveyed nine months later to see if the strategy was effective.

Results

87% are more familiar with the regulations and best management practices. 97% have an increased understanding of monitoring and sampling requirements. 96% indicated the technical assistance visit was helpful. 68% felt they were more prepared to respond to a spill.

Contact

Paul Stasch, 360-407-6446 or psta461@ecy.wa.gov

6. MANAGING WASHINGTON CONSERVATION CORPS DATA

Problem

Four agencies (Ecology, Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife and Parks) were mandated by the 1999 Legislature to have a method for managing Washington Conservation Corps data by July 1. The Conservation Corps employs temporary employees to work on environmental projects.

Solution

Ecology developed a database system to manage its Corps data. Staff shared our database design with the other agencies who decided to adopt our system.

Results

Duplication of efforts was avoided saving approximately \$12,000 to \$15,000 for each of the other agencies. In addition, by using matching systems, the state benefits by having consistent reporting from four agencies.

Contact

Lin Sierra, 360-407-7540 or lsie461@ecy.wa.gov

7. BIBLIOMAKER

Problem

Ecology's publications office handles the distribution of over 1,700 publications to the public and staff. Tracking these publications required staff throughout the agency to prepare paperwork about the document and submit it to the publications office for entry into a stand-alone database.

Solution

Staff streamlined this process by allowing publications coordinators throughout the agency direct input into a shared database and making publications available on-line. In addition, the publications are directly linked to related rules and regulations which are available in summary or full-text on-line.

Results

Cost avoidance in printing and distribution of publications, rules and regulations of \$52,975 per year (this assumes that 10% of the downloaded documents would have been requested in hard copy from Ecology).

Contact

Mike Sosnow, 360-407-6112 or msos461@ecy.wa.gov

8. PERMIT ON CD ROM

Problem

The Hanford Nuclear Reservation storage and treatment permit for mixed chemical and radioactive wastes is 3,500 pages. Printing the permit is expensive and time consuming.

Solution

Staff determined it would be more efficient to make the permit accessible on a CD Rom to stakeholders and interested parties.

Results

Cost avoidance to stakeholders of \$36,000 to \$45,000 in printing costs (the public is charged for the actual cost to print the permit).

Contact

Bob Julian, 509-736-5702 or rjul461@ecy.wa.gov