

Year Two Proposed Project Outline

Currently in my role, I am working as part of a team of four trying to obtain the ISO14001 accreditation. This is the management standard set up by the International Organization for Standardization to put into place an environmental management system.

We are in the very early stages of this work, and would like to obtain our accreditation by the end of 2009. It has taken the team over a year simply to get the “go-ahead” to start our work on ISO14001 due to many of the relevant people in the organisation not believing that environmental issues are important to our organisation.

During my project, I would like to accomplish several things, some of a practical nature and some of a more experiential nature:

- Obtain the ISO14001 accreditation for the organisation, by the end of 2009 if possible but early 2010 at least.
- Identify the areas where we are already doing good things, and why this is happening. For example, is it because of one passionate champion in a department? Is it because of current legislative issues? Is it a combination of reasons? I would like to explore what is working well to replicate.
- Identify areas where we are not doing anything, and why this is happening. For example, is this because of a lack of interest from people? Is this because of a lack of resources (time or money)? Is this because a need for change is not apparent? How can we change this?
- There are several key members of staff who are completely opposed to any change, and the idea of putting a “system” into place to monitor our environmental impact is seen as a waste of time and resources. I would like to explore why they feel this way, discuss the reasons with them, and (hopefully) have some of them help us with putting in a system.
- Putting in an environmental management system is a huge task. I would like to assist in finding a way that we can capture data from various departments who are used to being “siloes”.
- Explore with other organisations how they have gone about obtaining the ISO14001 certification and see what lessons we can learn.

Obtaining any kind of certification is a challenge. By the end of the year, I would like to at least have the groundwork laid for obtaining this by 2010, if not by the end of 2009.

For the research, I will be using a mixture of:

- Research into what is required by ISO, what we already do and what we need to do
- Interviews with the various departments: what everyone is doing/not doing, why, what lessons can be learned
- Discussions with the key people who may input information into a database of some kind for future ISO monitoring: what would work best for them, what is the easiest, and what have they found unworkable in the past?