

# EMAS - newsletter

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme



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## Editorial

Dear Reader,  
the second issue of the EMAS newsletter reports on the largest EU local authority to have achieved EMAS and an interview with the Environmental Coordinator of the first EMAS registered school in Austria. We also have an update on the implementation of EMAS in the Commission and the lat-

est registration figures and upcoming events. Finally, learn about the experiences and achievements of the first EMAS registered zoo.

**The EMAS team, Directorate-General for the Environment, European Commission.**

## Report **Leeds City Council goes greener**

**In 1991, Leeds City Council adopted its Green Strategy with the aim of integrating environmental concerns into the Council's day-to-day work. Two years later Leeds was designated as an "Environment City"; only one of four cities in Britain has received this award. Leeds City Council recently registered for EMAS becoming thereby the largest public sector organisation in Europe that is EMAS registered.**

To become EMAS compliant Leeds City Council has had to analyse the way it deals with all significant environmental aspects including waste, energy efficiency and the protection of the countryside. In the following some important environmental improvements are highlighted.

### **Waste reduction and recycling**

Leeds has introduced an innovative scheme which has seen some 40 000 tonnes of waste material from highway construction projects reclaimed and reused towards such uses as repairing damaged city footpaths. Paper recycling schemes are widespread at Council offices and in their endeavour to recycle and refurbish computers and other IT equipment, the Council's IT Department is using the services of a charity which provides training and employment to disabled people.

### **Greening public procurement**

The council has created a "Passport to the Environment", a guide to environmental issues for businesses and organisations that perform public services. In order to encourage contractors to take responsibility for the indirect environmental impact of their services, the Department of Legal Services is considering amending certain contracts to include environmental considerations.

### **Information and communication**

Leeds City Council seeks to promote environmental awareness among the residents of Leeds as well as among its own employees. To this end, staff pay-slips are used to advertise the Council's public transport travel card scheme and courses on energy efficiency have been held in several departments. A guide to

"green" shopping for the general public has been produced by the Department of Planning and Environment and a local awareness-raising campaign on environmental and sustainability issues, known as Wise Up, has been launched.

### **Promoting LA-EMAS**

In an effort to reduce the costs of environmental management, Leeds City Council is planning to cooperate with a number of nearby local authorities such as Kirklees which is already EMAS registered and Bradford City which has stated its commitment to achieving EMAS. Such cooperation could result in greater economies of scale through the sharing of auditing resources, the training of civil servants and the management of contractors in a coordinated approach.



For any additional information contact Jim Harbidge, Environment Management Officer, at [jim.harbidge@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:jim.harbidge@leeds.gov.uk). The Leeds City Council EMAS Environmental Statement is available online at [www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk). Visit the website of Leeds' local awareness raising campaign: [www.wisupleeds.net](http://www.wisupleeds.net).



Interview **Herbert Wieninger**

The “Rahlgasse” School in Vienna has been EMAS registered since 2001. The 550 pupils and 65 teachers, who dedicate a lot of their time and efforts to improve the environmental impact of their school, are proud to see that it has become one of the “greenest” schools in the city

**How did EMAS start in your school?**

Initially we started with an energy-saving project where we encouraged our students to optimise their energy use. A year later we did a project designed to sort the school’s waste. To make sure that these projects would not produce only short-term results we realised that we needed some sort of a long-term management system. So, we chose EMAS to help us maintain the sustainability of our activities on a day-to-day basis.

**Did you encounter any difficulties?**

Implementing EMAS has been very time consuming for our 5-person environmental team since they have to deal with all the organisational issues in addition to their “normal” jobs at school. We unfortunately did not receive any funds to employ someone on a full-time basis, something which would have given us the opportunity to network better with other schools and exchange experiences.

» Best practice :  
First EMAS registered zoo

**Copenhagen Zoo, one of the oldest in Europe, has 128 employees and about 1 million visitors each year. In 2000, it started implementing an environmental management system and is now EMAS registered**

In 2000, Copenhagen Zoo developed, in co-operation with the University of Aalborg, a water purification plant to clean the wastewater from the sea animal reservoir. After two years of operation, water consumption at the sea lion and penguin facilities have been reduced by almost 80 percent. In 2001, electric meters

were set up in all houses and stables and energy-saving light bulbs were installed in all administration buildings. Manure from the animals, the zoo’s main source of waste, is re-used in agriculture and the possibilities of using biogases for energy production are presently assessed.

Rikke Bydam, the zoo’s environment coordinator, says that although large investments have been made, the implementation of EMAS in the zoo has been beneficial from an economic perspective: water consumption has been reduced

by up to 23%, electricity by 3% and heating by 12%. To motivate employees, 10% of the saving achieved through resource reduction is used for a common activity or event.

With this positive experience, the zoo created a Task Force within the Danish Association of Zoos and Aquaria to foster exchange of experience and best practice. “We hope that a similar group will be created soon on the European level” Rikke Bydam says.



For more information on the Copenhagen Zoo and a copy of their Environmental Statement visit their website at: [www.zoo.dk](http://www.zoo.dk) or contact Rikke Bydam at [rb@zoo.dk](mailto:rb@zoo.dk)



### Herbert Wieninger

is a part-time teacher at the Rahlgasse Gymnasium in Vienna. He also works as a free-lance environmental consultant.



#### Did you receive any support for the implementation of EMAS?

We received funding from the city of Vienna to cover the costs of external consultants. This was necessary because we had no experience at all with management systems. We were also lucky to be sponsored by a bank which took care of the costs of the external audit.

#### How has EMAS changed the image of your school, internally and to the outside world?

Our students are now very motivated about environmental issues. The success of EMAS in our school depends very much on their involvement. Our aim is that by the time they

are in their last year they will have become "environmental specialists", helping in a way to make our school become a sustainable Local Agenda 21 school. From the outside world, the reaction is very positive and unlike other schools we have waiting lists for students!



For more information on the Rahlgasse Gymnasium or for a copy of their Environmental Statement visit their website at: [www.grg6.asn-wien.ac.at](http://www.grg6.asn-wien.ac.at)

## Update: EMAS in the Commission

In the previous issue of the EMAS newsletter, we have informed you about the project "EMAS in the European Commission – pilot phase" which aims at implementing EMAS in three Commission services: the Secretariat-General, DG Environment and DG Administration leading, once completed, to the application of EMAS to the entire Commission. Since then, significant progress was made. A consultant was appointed to support the EMAS Implementation Team and a Steering Committee consisting of the Secretary General and Director Generals of the two other services was established. Main tasks for the immediate future are to inform and motivate staff in the pilot services and to conduct a mini audit in order to evaluate the environmental concerns expressed by staff. Within the next weeks plans for the initial review, employee involvement and implementation of the management system will be established and environmental officers will be appointed.

In the meantime, other EU institutions also respond to the challenge of taking responsibility for their environmental impacts. The Committee of the Regions together with the Economic and Social Committee started to implement EMAS in early 2002. They are in the middle of developing an EMS and expect their draft Environmental Statement to be finalised by the end of this year. The European Parliament just published a tender for consultancy work to support them in setting up an environmental management system according to EMAS.

## Update: art 14 Committee

The fifth meeting of the Article 14 Committee (the official Steering Committee of EMAS at the EU level) was held in Prague on 23 and 24 October 2002. The Committee members received an update from the working group on regulatory relief which tries to find ways and examples how Member States' enforcement authorities can take an organisation's EMAS registration into account when implementing and enforcing national environmental legislation. The guidance document on environmental performance indicators was finalised and is now ready for formal adoption. Furthermore, a draft Commission Regulation for enabling EMAS registrations outside Europe was discussed. The Committee was hosted by the Czech Republic and all participants thanked the Republic for the excellent organisation of the meeting which included also a visit to an EMAS registered paper and pulp company and a reception in a historical building in the center of Prague. Furthermore, on the 25th of October, a seminar on EMAS in the Candidate Countries took place in the Czech Ministry for the Environment.

## > Emas website

>>> <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas>

Since the new EMAS website went on-line in May this year, visits and downloads have increased considerably. The website is regularly updated with news, events and promotional material. New items found on the site include the updated news on

EMAS events and developments, a revised EMAS leaflet in 5 languages, an EMAS poster, the first issue of the EMAS newsletter, new links and updated list of EMAS organisations and verifiers. We have also included information on Commission

activities to promote the scheme and integrate it into other EU policies as well as a full description of the recently selected EU LIFE projects relating to EMAS.

## >> News

> TOROC, the organising committee for the XXth Winter Olympic Games from 10 to 26 February 2006 in Turin, Italy, has started with the implementation of EMAS.

> EMAS toolkit for SMEs will be revised according to EMAS II. The new on-line toolkit will include case studies from the service and public sectors and provide links to a selection of Environmental Statements.

> The Spanish company COATO, registered for EMAS since 2001, and ST-Microelectronic Ltd. Malta, the first company in a Candidate Country to implement an EMS according to EMAS, were amongst the winners of the European Business Award for the Environment.

> Among the 109 projects selected in this year's round for the EU LIFE-Environment Programme, 8 are related to EMAS or environmental management systems in general. EMAS projects will be funded in Finland, Greece, Italy, Spain and the UK.

More details on the EMAS website

## >>> Emas in figures

### Registered organisations > TOTAL 3 788

Austria 348 | Belgium 18 | Denmark 130 | Finland 41 | France 26 | Germany 2 486 | Greece 9 | Ireland 8 | Italy 114 | Luxembourg 1 | Netherlands 27 | Norway 56 | Portugal 2 | Spain 246 | Sweden 201 | United Kingdom 75 |

### Quasi-registrations in the Candidate Countries and outside Europe

Czech Republic 8 | Malta 1 | Romania 1 | Slovak Republic 1 | Hungary 4 | Singapore 2 | USA 2 | Morocco 2 | Malaysia 1 | China 1 |

### Leading industrial sectors:

|                        |     |   |
|------------------------|-----|---|
| recycling and disposal | 451 |  |
| metals                 | 366 |  |
| chemicals              | 344 |  |
| food and beverages     | 338 |  |

### Leading non-industrial sectors:

|                        |     |   |
|------------------------|-----|---|
| hotels and restaurants | 113 |  |
| public administration  | 105 |  |
| health and social work | 81  |  |
| education              | 51  |  |

## Upcoming events

|                  |                   |   |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| 30 January 2003  | Helsinki, Finland | Conference within the framework of the 2002-03 EMAS Local Authorities Campaign                              |
| 11 February 2003 | Brussels, Belgium | Conference within the framework of the 2002-03 EMAS Local Authorities Campaign                              |
| 5 March 2003     | Dublin, Ireland   | Conference within the framework of the 2002-03 EMAS Local Authorities Campaign                              |
| 2-6 June 2003    | Brussels, Belgium | Green Week Conference and Exhibition organised by the European Commission                                   |
| Foreseen in 2003 | Greece and Italy  | EMAS and SMEs, Seminars organised by UEAPME and its member organisations in cooperation with DG Environment |

The EMAS newsletter is published by the EMAS Helpdesk on behalf of the European Commission. An electronic copy is available on the Internet at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas> or by subscribing to the mailing list. For a free subscription, comments or further information send an email to the EMAS Helpdesk at: [emas@cec.eu.int](mailto:emas@cec.eu.int) or write to the following address:

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