



Chemical Strategies Partnership

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EPA Research Project: Evaluation of CMS in Schools

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Background

Secondary schools, colleges, universities, and laboratory research facilities use chemicals as part of their educational and research programs. Recent regional enforcement initiatives targeting universities show that schools have inadequate levels of chemical management. In response, educational institutions are struggling to find effective approaches to better manage chemicals.

It is possible that the Chemical Management Services (CMS) model, which has been successfully utilized in the industry setting, may be applied to educational and research institutions to improve chemical use efficiency, leading to a reduction in chemical consumption and waste generation. A CMS program may enable an educational institution's existing EH&S personnel to spend less time gathering data and managing waste, and allow more time working collaboratively with their CMS provider to promote chemical use reduction, waste reduction, and improved environmental health and safety.

Chemical Management Services

The CMS model involves engaging a chemical supplier to implement a best-practice chemical management system. A key element of such a program includes better chemical and waste tracking. The CMS model transforms the traditional *product-based* supplier-customer relationship to a *services-based* one—better aligning incentives of the supplier to improve efficiency.

This model has proven successful in the automotive and semiconductor industries. The Chemical Strategies Partnership (CSP) is currently working with Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) to develop a pilot CMS program.

Project Goal

The goal of this project is to explore the viability of the CMS model for the educational and research institution setting (based on criteria such as cost and effectiveness). To accomplish this, the project has two main components:

❖ **Case studies:** Two educational institutions will be selected based on their leadership in approaching chemical management. These case studies will be used to illustrate current examples of “best practice” in chemical management.

❖ **Pilot program:** Subsequently, an educational institution will be recruited to participate in a pilot CMS program. The pilot will explore whether a CMS program could more cost effectively facilitate chemical management, including the reduction and elimination of mercury, in an educational setting.

CSP will provide significant support to the institution to assess their baseline chemical management costs, evaluate their needs, and assist in writing an RfP (request for proposals) to distribute to their current vendors and other potential CMS providers.

Chemical Strategies Partnership

Founded in 1996, the non-profit CSP explores the viability of CMS as a business model for continuously reducing chemical use and waste in a variety of industry sectors. CSP works with both customers (e.g., manufacturing companies) as well as CMS providers (through the CMS Forum). CSP is staffed by California Environmental Associates (www.ceaconсалting.com) and Tellus Institute (tellus.org).

For more information

CSP is on the web at www.chemicalstrategies.org and www.CMSForum.org.

The principal contacts for this project are:

Freida Fung (ffung@tellus.org)
Thomas Votta (tvotta@tellus.org)
CSP/Tellus Institute 617-266-5400

Jill Kauffman Johnson (jill@chemicalstrategies.org)
Chemical Strategies Partnership 415-421-3405

Priscilla Halloran (Halloran.Priscilla@epa.gov)
Environmental Protection Agency 703-308-8802