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October 24, 2011

Jack Boller, State Innovation Grant Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101-9797

RE: Washington State Innovations Grant – FY2011 4th Quarter Report

Dear Jack:

Attached is the FY2011 progress report for the FY07-2011 Sustainable Washington State Innovation Grant Project for the period from July 2011– September 2011. During this period we completed the Auto Body Environmental Results Program evaluation. The report documents our results, data and lessons learned over the past three years conducting this demonstration project.

**Environmental Results Program**

The major milestone was the competition of the Auto Collision ERP Evaluation Report that has been posted to our website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/lsp/erpautob.html>

My personal experience with the ERP program was very positive and Ecology appreciated the opportunity to engage with both EPA and the states in this effort. It's been an innovative approach that offers states the opportunity to leverage our limited state resources in difficult times.

We were also fortunate to partner with our local government jurisdictions to help provide on the ERP ground support, since we did not have dedicated Ecology field staff to conduct the site visits. In addition, five our local government partners provided assistance in recruiting businesses into the EnviroStars business certification program that was incorporated into this model. We are proud to have played a role in starting the first EnviroStars program in Eastern Washington as a result of this grant project.

One of my personal challenges was keeping the support of our management team during the project period. This was due to a combination of issues, including continued questions on the choice of the auto body sector, personnel issues related to our project manager Alison Chamberlin, the 2008 economic meltdown, and state budget problems. Overall, the project team maintained the scope of the project and we produced many positive results that will help with our future sector work.

One of the lessons learned is that states should remain flexible in using all the tools that ERP offers an organization. Over the course of the project, we faced a serious recession, staff turnover, state hiring freezes and budget cuts. In the future, we would probably flex to prioritize parts of the ERP model that provide the best outcomes with the given resources. We

kept EPR model intact for this grant, since we wanted our data to support the efforts undertaken by the other EPA funded projects.

Though overall participation fell short of expectations, participating businesses increased compliance between baseline and verification visits. The share of grade "A" businesses (complying with 90% or more of requirements) increased by more than 60 percent, while the share of grade "D" or worse businesses (complying with fewer than 70% of items) was cut in half.

We also gained considerable knowledge and expertise in statistical sampling methods as a result of the project. These new tools will be helpful in future sector activities.

Ecology is continuing to develop future sector related work, including a possible ERP-like program for the auto salvage industry and shredding operations. We are interested in a multi-state approach, since a lot of the auto salvage market is regional.

The final report is rich with data and information. I want to recognize the efforts of our staff, especially **Peggy Morgan** and **Kimberly Goetz** that worked with me on the project.

#### **Environmental Management Systems Training**

Ecology is seeking training and support services related to the use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) to help staff maintain professional development skills under the ISO 14001 standard. The contractor is expected to conduct classroom training to help staff and businesses meet the requirements of Ecology policy on use of an EMS to meet state pollution prevention planning requirements. It is also expected the contractor will work with Ecology to provide guidance on submitting EMS information via the new TurboPlan reporting system. The EMS training project is a deliverable in the grant and will be completed by June 30, 2012.

#### **Global Reporting Initiative**

HWTR Pollution Prevention staff formed a GRI Advisory team to focus on the next stages of the GRI project. The team has devised a detailed work plan that is divided into manageable segments. Staff is working on the second draft of the entire application to meet Level C status. Staff have structured regular meetings with management to ensure a well rounded and timely project for submittal to GRI.

Sincerely,



Ken Zarker, Manager  
Pollution Prevention and Regulatory Assistance Section

cc: Gerald Filbin, EPA HQ Office of Strategic Environmental Management

Attachments