



São Paulo - Brazil - May - 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> - 2013

## 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“INTEGRATING CLEANER PRODUCTION INTO SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES”

---

### **Environmental Management Systems: Providing the Best Opportunity to Integrate Cleaner Production into Sustainability Strategies**

Jeffrey Burke

*National Pollution Prevention Roundtable – USA*

Sustainability, as defined at the 2005 World Summit on Social Development, includes three pillars: environment, social equity and economic demands, which are also referred to as the “triple bottom line.” There is some disagreement as to how these pillars interrelate, but it is clear that attention must be paid to all three in order for an organization to be “sustainable.” Failure to address one of the pillars will inevitably result in a breakdown of the organization, similar to removing one of the legs on a tripod.

This presentation will focus on the environment pillar and how an Environmental Management Systems (EMS) provides the structure, accountability and continual improvement approach necessary to achieve sustainability. In some of the examples, social equity and economic benefits will also be mentioned and discussed.

An effective EMS utilizes the basic principles and approaches of Cleaner Production as a cornerstone, without which the foundation of the environmental pillar is insufficient to support sustainability strategies. Using the “Plan-Do-Check-Act” method of management, an EMS relies on the proven success of numerous organizations over the past seventy-five years. The EMS provides the mechanism to integrate Cleaner Production programs and initiatives into Sustainability Strategies by incorporating innovative problem solving and source reduction into an organization’s strategic planning.



São Paulo - Brazil - May - 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> - 2013

# 4<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ADVANCES IN CLEANER PRODUCTION

“INTEGRATING CLEANER PRODUCTION INTO SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGIES”

Numerous examples will be used to show how organizations throughout the world have developed, implemented and maintained robust EMSs as part of their Sustainability goals, while utilizing cleaner production tools and techniques. These companies have benefitted by achieving a competitive advantage through more efficient resource utilization, improved worker morale, safer working conditions, and increased profitability.

Developing an EMS is not an easy undertaking and requires strong leadership and commitment at all levels of an organization. Many of the barriers to developing an EMS, as well as the approaches to overcome these challenges, will also be discussed. In addition, several of the tools used to develop an EMS will be highlighted.