

# ISO 14001 Environmental Management System



## Chester Zoo

Supports and promotes conservation by breeding rare and threatened animals and plants, by excellent animal welfare, high quality public service, recreation, education and science.

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### ISO 14001 – A Roaring Success for Chester Zoo!

Conservation of the environment is an important part of Chester Zoo's mission but due to the unique nature of the organisation, attempts at achieving environmental accreditation had proved complex.

Groundwork's Environmental Advisor, Neil Earnshaw, was asked to provide assistance in helping the Zoo implement a more workable environmental management system. BS8555 is a new step by step framework that makes the process of achieving ISO 14001 simple and easy. BS8555, with its five phases of accreditation, was both cost effective and flexible enough to meet the Zoo's particular requirements.

*"A zoo has a number of quite unique issues", says Neil. "They are very high users of energy, in order to keep animal units at tropical temperatures. They also have issues of waste from rubbish left by visitors to the zoo and also large amounts of animal waste to dispose of. Chester zoo was already very committed to improving their environmental performance. Their environmental committee met regularly and had a lot of good ideas, but were getting a bit bogged down in the paperwork and needed more support and guidance. That's where I could help."*



With commitment from top management, an agreement was made to incorporate the EMS responsibilities into the roles of many staff. This full time responsibility for implementing the environmental system ensured Chester Zoo had an appropriate structure in place to operate the system.

Using Groundwork EBS services, Neil helped the Zoo to identify areas of improvement and think through how they could best tackle the issues.

A detailed assessment was carried out across the site. This review identified the negative and positive impacts the Zoo had on the environment and enabled Neil to identify where new environmental practices could be integrated into current procedures.

For example, under legal compliance and with the correct filtration, it was identified that animal dung could be used as a land fertiliser on surrounding farmland belonging to the

Zoo. Any excess can be sold for agricultural use.

The Zoo recycles most of its packaging and provides bottlebanks and other facilities for visitors to dispose of their waste. This saves the organisation about £400 per month in landfill tax charges.

CHESTER Zoo has subsequently become the first Zoo in the UK to achieve ISO 14001 and was awarded accreditation in November 2004.

Zoo Director Gordon McGregor Reid said:

*“We are delighted to have been recognised with this standard and I am proud of all the staff who have worked together to achieve it. Our thanks also go to Groundwork EBS who have worked with us very closely throughout and continue to do so. The whole ethos of the Zoo is to support and promote conservation and sustainability in all its forms and we are continually looking at ways to better our environmental performance and to further demonstrate best practice.”*

### **Benefits from ISO implementation:**

- Improved performance, efficiency and monitoring
- Identification and compliance with current and new legislation
- Operating costs reduced as a result of best practice principles through the reduction of waste, energy and materials. Waste management save the zoo £400 per month in landfill tax
- Improved corporate image among regulators, customers and the public
- Inspired employees and owners to make active contributions to managing environmental impacts
- Framework for continuous improvement of environmental performance
- Development of the environmental policy

Environmental Management now plays a large part of the organisation's business strategy. Through the implementation of environmental considerations, the Zoo has created economic opportunities with real tangible benefits.

**To find out more about how Groundwork EBS can help your business, please contact Martyn Harby, Groundwork on Merseyside EBS Co-ordinator on 0151 644 4720.**