

Chiba University

Student Engagement

Student-led Environmental Management Systems



CHIBA UNIVERSITY

Profile

- Japan
- National University
- Established in 1949
- 4 campuses
- Approx. 15,000 students
- Approx. 3,000 faculty staff
- 10 faculties
- 11 graduate programs
- Urban

About the project

Summary

Chiba University has acquired both ISO14001 and ISO50001. Since 2003, the Student Committee for Environmental Management Systems (EMS) has been in charge of operating the EMS, playing a core role in PDCA cycle and carrying out various activities. It is a characteristic of this university (called "Chiba University method") that these are practiced as a part of education for students, resulting in a great reduction of environmental burdens and expenses and achievement of education of environment and practical skills.

Project partners

- The Student Committee for EMS, including 150 undergraduate members
- All the members of Chiba University, including students and faculty staff, are involved in green activities related to the EMS.
- Chiba University Cooperative
- The Keiyo Bank, Ltd (Local bank in Chiba)

The results

The problem

1. To fulfill social responsibility by reducing environmental impact, eventually reducing university expenses.
2. To make environmental efforts a part of education and to reduce the burden on faculty staff who are necessary for system operation.

The approach

1. To acquire ISO 14001 (International standard of EMS) and ISO 50001 (Energy Management Systems)
2. To establish the student committee for EMS who mainly builds and operates the systems.

Our goals

1. To continue environmental management by maintaining ISO certification.
2. To provide environmental and practical business education to students through continuation of the student committee.

Obstacles and solutions

[Two columns of bullet points]

Continuous participation of students.	Introduction of an "Accreditation and Qualification system" to maintain the number of students. Students learn and carry out various environmental activities as a course for 3 years. They can build not only knowledge but also business skills, and finally they can be awarded an EMS practitioner qualification.
To make the faculty staff understand students engagement in university EMS.	The student committee works as a member of the university organization, not as a club.
To raise funds to support the committee's activities.	To receive financial support from The Keiyo Bank, Ltd. The Bank provides funds for travel expenses and conference attendance fees to share ideas and to expand the activities. Also, the Student Committee launched a joint eco project in collaboration with the bank.
To expand the scope of committee's activities.	The Student Committee was recognized as an NPO in 2009.

Performance and results

Since the establishment of the Student Committee in 2003, we have been able to continue student-led EMS for 15 years. About 150 students join the Student Committee every year, and carry out various activities.

Environmental & economic effects:

As compared with 2004 (before acquiring ISO 14001), despite the increased population and floor space, the annual energy consumption in 2015 dropped by 9.5%, water consumption by 52.6%, and general waste by 43.4%. Actual CO2 emission decreased by 2587 t. This way the environmental burden was drastically reduced along with the costs.

Practical education effects:

Students have built various practical business skills through their activities. Up to now 424 EMS practitioners were produced. According to a survey, over 80% alumni said the student committee's activities were useful for working in society.

The result of a questionnaire targeting the participants showed the most significant "characteristic of the Student Committee" was hands-on experience (e.g. writing e-mails and business documents, learning manners, planning and executing activities), which reached 50%, followed by leadership (40%) and communication skills (38%).

Environmental education for children:

The Student Committee has been conducting hands-on environment classes and events at local elementary and middle schools. About three thousand children have participated in this activity and their feedback suggests that they have become more aware of their environmental responsibilities.

Social effects:

The Student Committee has been the recipient of various awards for maintaining a student-led EMS system for over 10 years. In 2017, it received the "ISCN Award" in the Excellent Student Leadership Category and "Environment Minister's Award for Global Warming Prevention Activities". In addition, it received an award from the Minister of Education, Culture Sports, Science and Technology of Japan in the 2015 "Global Environment Award" ceremony and received a "Sustainable Campus Award" from the "Assessment System for Sustainable Campus (organized by CAS-Net Japan)" in 2015 and 2017.

The future

Lessons learned

- 1 In order to operate EMS at university with understanding of faculty staff, it is effective that the student committee is positioned within the organization of the university, and the student is responsible for core role of EMS.
- 2 In order to make it an incentive for students to participate and to implement activities as a part of education, the "Accreditation and Qualification system" is very effective.

3 We have learned student-led EMS has not only environmental and economic effects but also educational (both environmental and practical business) and social effects.

Sharing your project

[How have you communicated your project? What effect has this had?]

1. Our project has been reported by the media (newspapers, TV, websites etc.)
2. It has been published on the Chiba University and the Student Committee's Internet.
3. Student Committee distributes information using social media (twitter, Facebook etc.)

As a result the recognition of Chiba University's EMS project to students and faculty staff as well as people outside the university has increased. In addition, it has deepened collaboration with private companies.

What has it meant to your institution to be a GUPES Green Gown Award finalist?

By receiving the award, this initiative attempt contributes to improving the social status of Chiba University as an advanced university actively working on environmental activities. In addition, in order to promote the sustainable campus worldwide, we were able to notify worldwide universities of "Chiba University method" effective not only for reducing environmental impact but also for educating students.

Further information

(Include contacts details, social media links, website address)

Website

Chiba University website

<http://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/e/>

Efforts for environment of Chiba University

<http://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/e/about/environment/index.html>

2017 ISCN Award case presentation (power point)

<https://www.international-sustainable-campus-network.org/awards/2017-awards>

(Japanese)

Student Committee Twitter : @chibaiso

<http://www.chiba-u.ac.jp/general/approach/environment/index.html>

http://www.keiyobank.co.jp/ir/eco_project/chiba_u_csr.html

Video

About Chiba University

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQnV2K53wpo>

The Student Committee's presentation at ISCN 2017

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAAhrm-bFLo>

Contact information

Chiba University Environmental ISO secretariat

kankyo-iso@office.chiba-u.jp