

Data Stewarding

Environmental Services

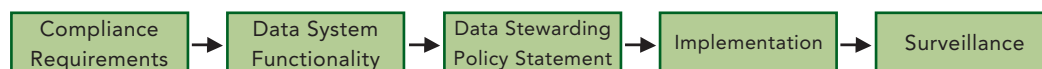
Information Management

Data Stewarding

For many organizations, environmental data integrity problems are not detected until a costly event occurs, such as a subpoena, findings in a regulatory audit, injuries, acute environmental impacts, or loss of a valued customer. While most organizations recognize the importance of data quality, many never evolve from a “find-and-fix” reactive approach to a proactive approach that prevents the data errors that lead to costly events. Data integrity problems also cause users of data systems to lose confidence and buy-in in such systems, which limits wide-spread data system implementation across the organization and thus limits realized ROI from an enterprise data system investment.

Successful organizations treat data as a critical asset – just like human resources, intellectual property, office buildings, and industrial equipment. Good data supports risk management, lowers costs, avoids redundancy, enables an agile organization, and provides better business intelligence for critical decision making. Well-stewarded data is immune to changes in systems and enables data to be interchangeable between systems.

EM-Assist has developed a proven, structured methodology for data governance that brings continuous improvement and long-term benefits, enabling organizations to transform from responding to data errors with ongoing disruptive “quick fixes” to taking a proactive, comprehensive approach to quality data management. In contrast to other companies in the market, EM-Assist possesses extensive experience in all three areas essential to environmental data stewardship success: (i) environmental compliance, (ii) data systems integration, and (iii) training development. Our capabilities and approach ensure robust data delivered by the right tools and experts who understand how to reduce compliance burdens and long-run costs.



Compliance requirements and data system functionality (e.g., calculations and reports) are the two drivers that determine which data should be stewarded. In addition, available resources need to be considered. Our process is modular so that clients can select the most cost effective approach – ranging from outsourcing stewardship of the entire enterprise, to just small pieces of the process. Once we have an in-depth understanding of these considerations for a particular client, we customize a solution that includes:

- › A formal data stewarding policy statement
- › A management plan
- › Training materials
- › Surveillance queries
- › A testing plan

Case Study: U.S. Air Force

EM-Assist has been providing environmental data stewarding services for the Air Force’s MSDS program since 2005. During that time we:

- › Reduced data error rates by more than 75%
- › Reduced our client’s data stewarding costs by 65%
- › Continually monitored data quality through (i) peer review, (ii) a statistically driven sampling protocol, and (iii) queries to identify problems and prevent their reoccurrence