



**SERVICE  
FIRST,  
NOW!**

## **Angela Hodges Gott**

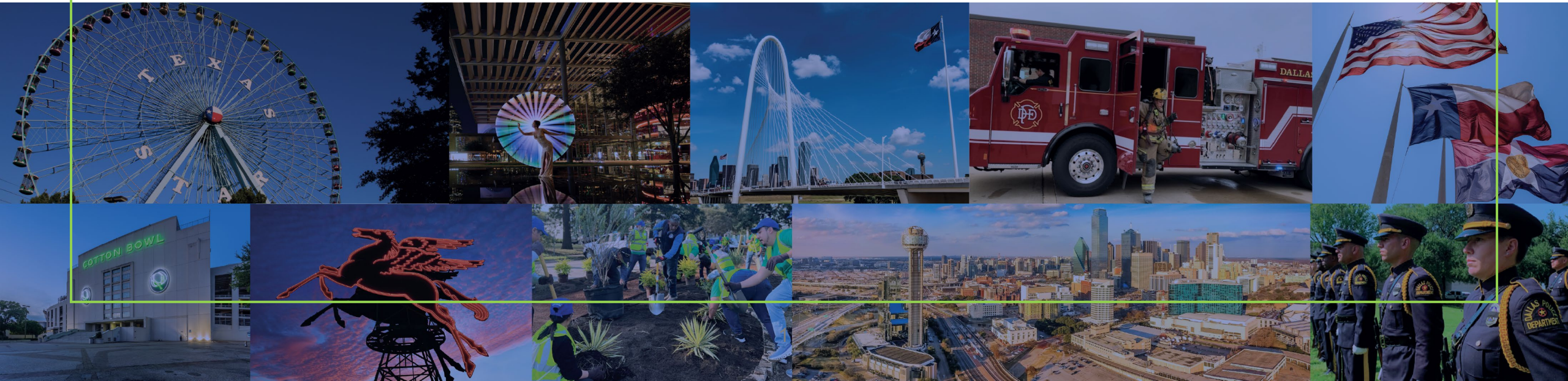
*Director*

Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability

# **City of Dallas Environmental Management System (EMS)**

## **Parks, Trails, and the Environment Committee**

April 6, 2026





- **A History of Environmental Performance**
- **Introduction to the Environmental Management System & ISO Certification**
- **Benefits of the EMS**
- **Looking Forward**



# A History of Environmental Performance

# Timeline of Environmental Performance



**2003**

Media reports on environmental issues at the City of Dallas in a FOX4 report called “Dirty Water, Dirty Secrets”.



**2004**

EPA Order was issued.  
The Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) was established.  
OEQ began conducting environmental audits at City facilities to determine compliance.  
Violations were reported to the TCEQ under the Audit Privilege Act.



**2005**

The City Manager’s Office requires Environmental Management System (EMS) in 11 City departments and assigns employees to complete the effort by April 2007.

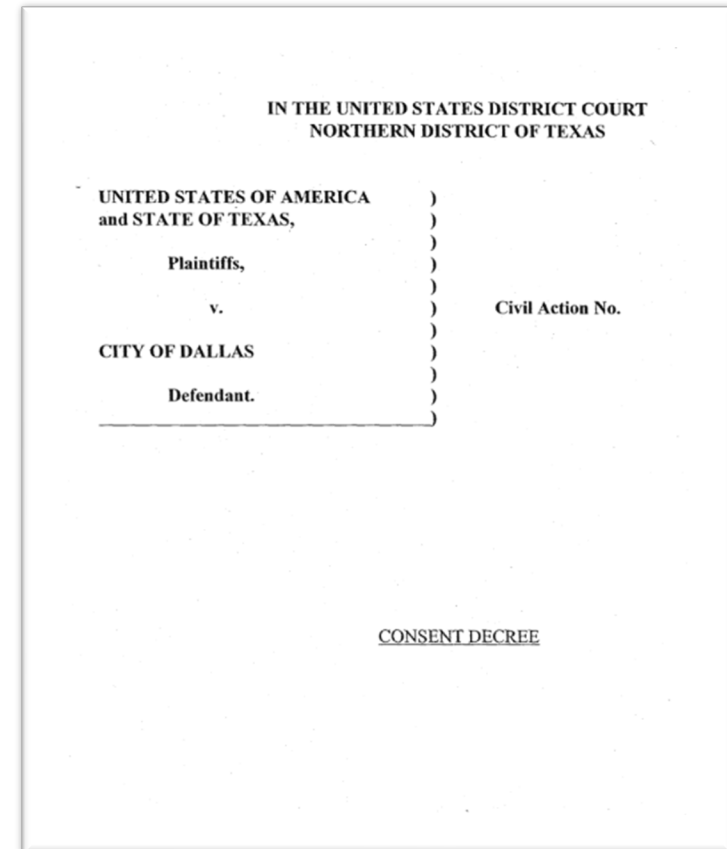


**2006**

The City of Dallas enters a Consent Decree, a settlement agreement between the City of Dallas and the Department of Justice on behalf of the US EPA, that includes a series of activities and requirements to be completed over the course of several years

## Settlement and the Consent Decree

The City of Dallas reached an agreement with the federal government that required the City to spend more than **\$3.5 million dollars** in effort to decrease the amount of pollution entering the stormwater system.



## Requirements of the Consent Decree

- Voluntary Supplemental Environmental Projects in the form of the construction of two wetlands, one along the Trinity River, and one along Cedar Creek near the Dallas Zoo.
- A payable Civil Penalty of \$800,000.
- The implementation and funding of a City Stormwater Management Program and specific requirements for oversight and reporting.
- The implementation of an Environmental Management System.
- Creation of the Office of Environmental Quality.

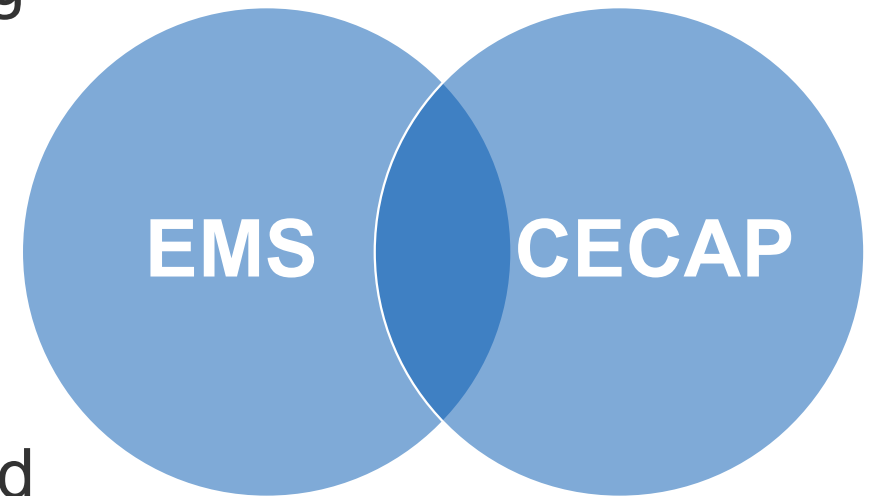
## The Consent Decree Now

On **October 5, 2023**, the order was signed approving the joint stipulation and **final termination of the consent decree**. The court found that the City of Dallas and the EPA sufficiently demonstrated that final and complete termination of the consent decree was warranted and appropriate.

## Looking Past the Consent Decree...

The City of Dallas is committed to continuing to comply with environmental regulations, managing environmental risks from City operations, and improving environmental performance through existing systems and programs.

The Environmental Management System is required by the City's Stormwater Permit and supports the City's overall environmental goals.





# Environmental Management Systems, An Overview

## ISO 14001:2015

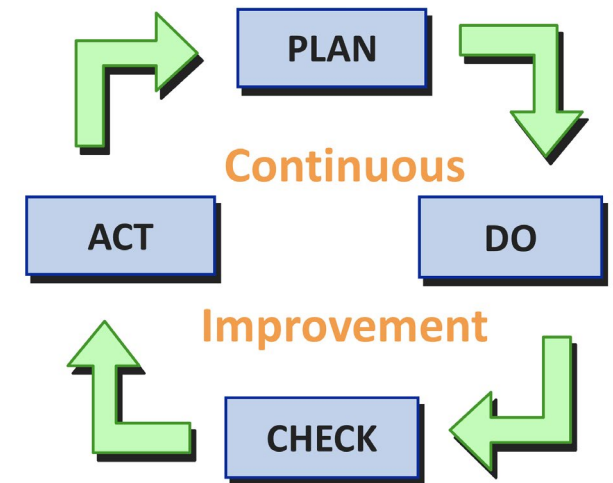
ISO 14001 is the international recognized standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS). It provides a framework for organizations to design and implement an EMS and continually improve their environmental performance.



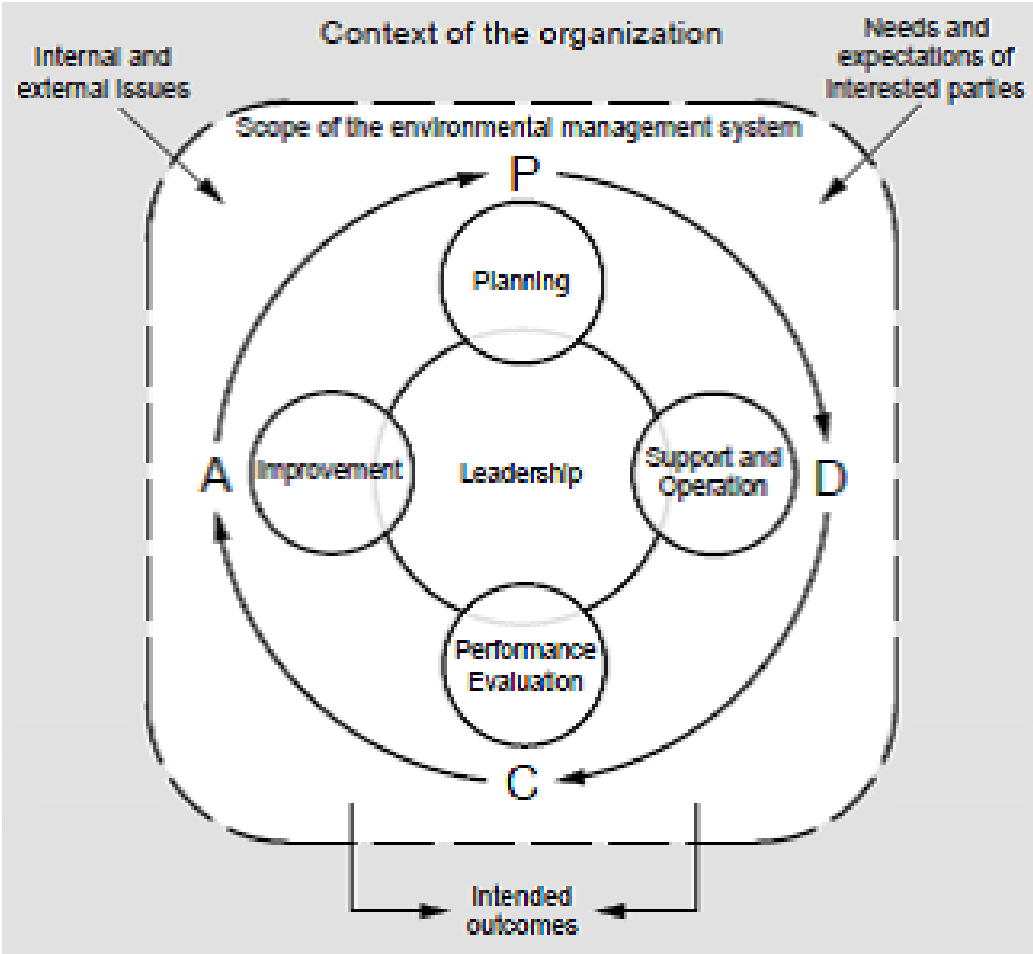
## What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

An EMS is a system of “plan, do, check, and act” applied to the management of environmental issues.

Through the EMS, the City looks at its activities, the potential and actual environmental impact of each activity, and provides guidelines to use to reduce environmental impacts.



# EMS: Plan, Do, Check, Act



# Plan: The Environmental Policy

The **Environmental Policy** commits the City of Dallas to the following:

- Pollution Prevention
- Environmental Compliance
- Continual Improvement



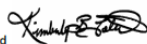
## Environmental Policy

The City of Dallas is committed to a clean, safe, and healthy environment. As such, we will exercise environmental stewardship in our dealings with employees, other governments, citizens, City contractors, business and others in the community for our world today as well as for future generations. Caring for the environment is one of our core values, and this is demonstrated by ensuring our activities are in harmony with the natural world around us.

This commitment is embodied by the following actions:

- ◆ Implementation of programs and procedures with an intent to meet or exceed all applicable environmental laws and regulations.
- ◆ Continual improvement of our environmental performance through proactive environmental management and self-assessments and/or third-party assessments.
- ◆ Prevention of pollution at its source through implementation of best management practices and resource conservation measures to reuse, reclaim, and recycle materials we generate.
- ◆ Utilization of Environmental Management Systems, as appropriate for our operations, to provide a framework for systematically reviewing and reducing our environmental footprint.
- ◆ Employees will abide by all environmental regulations and demonstrate environmental compliance in their daily work practices.
- ◆ Educate City employees on Dallas' environmental policies and motivate and encourage employees to practice environmental stewardship by raising awareness and sensitivity to environmental issues through City policies, regulations, training, and interactive dialogue.
- ◆ Outreach to the citizens and businesses of our community by communication of this Policy and education on the importance of environmental stewardship for clean air and water and sustainable development for the City of Dallas.

Approved by Dallas City Council January 26, 2005.

Signed  Date 07/08/2025

Kimberly Bizer Tolbert  
City Manager

# Do: Spill Response ADs

## Spill Response

It is the role of every City of Dallas employee to protect the environment by accurately reporting all spills or releases, per AD 3-73 and 3-74.

### Administrative Directive 3-74

**SUBJECT: SPILL RESPONSE PROCEDURES**

#### **1. POLICY**

It is the policy of the City of Dallas to comply with all Federal, State, and Local regulations applicable to spills that occur on or may enter onto City property.

#### **2. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Administrative Directive is:

- 2.1 To ensure appropriate response to any spills occurring on City property or which involve City projects or equipment (City spills);
- 2.2 To ensure compliance with Federal and State spill-reporting requirements;
- 2.3 To establish methods and procedures that ensure all spill response activities are conducted in an accurate, timely, and uniform manner; and
- 2.4 To establish Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG) for enforcement activities for spills that enter or may enter into the City's storm water drainage system (storm water spills).

#### **3. SCOPE**

This Directive applies to all departments and all employees of the City of Dallas.

#### **4. DEFINITIONS**

- 4.1 Citation: penalty for violation of an ordinance.
- 4.2 City Spill, Hazardous: a discharge of a hazardous material by a City of Dallas Department or onto a City property/
- 4.3 City Spill, Non-Hazardous: a discharge of a non-hazardous material by a City of Dallas Department or onto a City property.
- 4.4 Dallas Fire Rescue (DFD) Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT): City department primarily responsible for responding to spills of hazardous materials.
- 4.5 DFD Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP): City department responsible for planning and preparing for protection, relief, recovery and rehabilitation from the effects of a disaster, including a spill of hazardous materials.

## Check: Internal Inspections and Audits

The EMS and Internal Audit Team provides EMS, regulatory, and environmental consulting services to City departments engaged with the ISO 14001 Environmental Management System

FY24-25:

- Compliance Assessments: **125**
- EMS Internal Audits: **156**

FY23-24

- Compliance Assessments: **141**
- EMS Internal Audits: **151**

# Act: Departmental Objectives and Targets



## City Departments that Participate in EMS

- Aviation
- Facilities and Real Estate Management
- Code Compliance Services
- City Marshals Office
- Dallas Fire Rescue
- Dallas Police Department
- Dallas Water Utilities
- Equipment & Fleet Management
- Information & Technology Services
  - *Mobile Technology Center Only*
- Park and Recreation
- Sanitation
- Transportation and Public Works
- Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability

## Benefits of ISO 14001 Certification

ISO 14001 offers a structured approach for organizations to address pressing environmental concerns and shows stakeholders the commitment to not only regulatory compliance but also to ongoing environmental improvement.

Maintaining this standard stands as a testament to an organization's dedication to a sustainable future, blending environmental responsibility with strategic business growth.



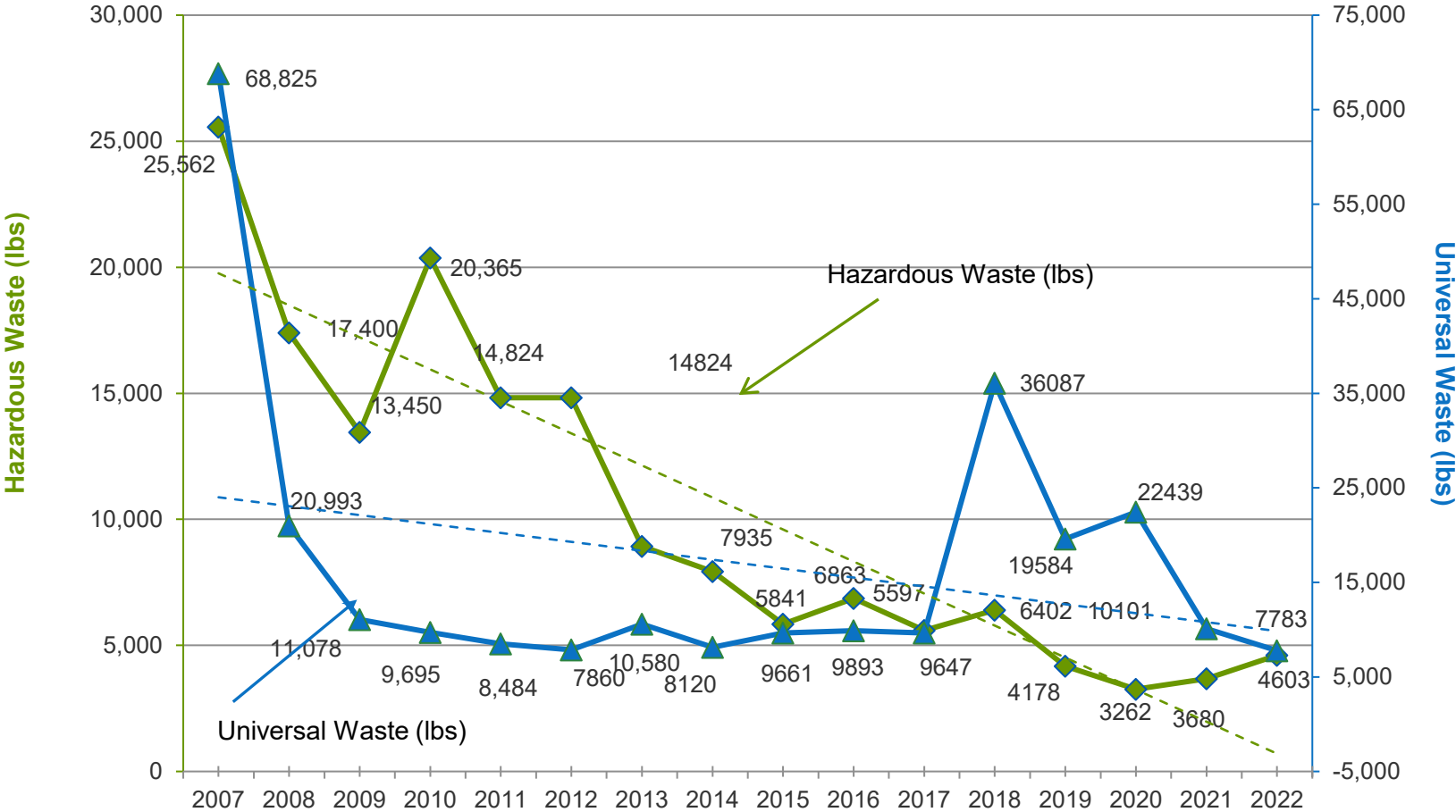
# Benefits of ISO 14001 Certification

# Benefits

- 1. Enhanced environmental performance**
2. Regulatory compliance
3. Risk management
4. Cost savings
5. Operational excellence
6. Stakeholder and customer trust

# Enhanced Environmental Performance: Waste Production

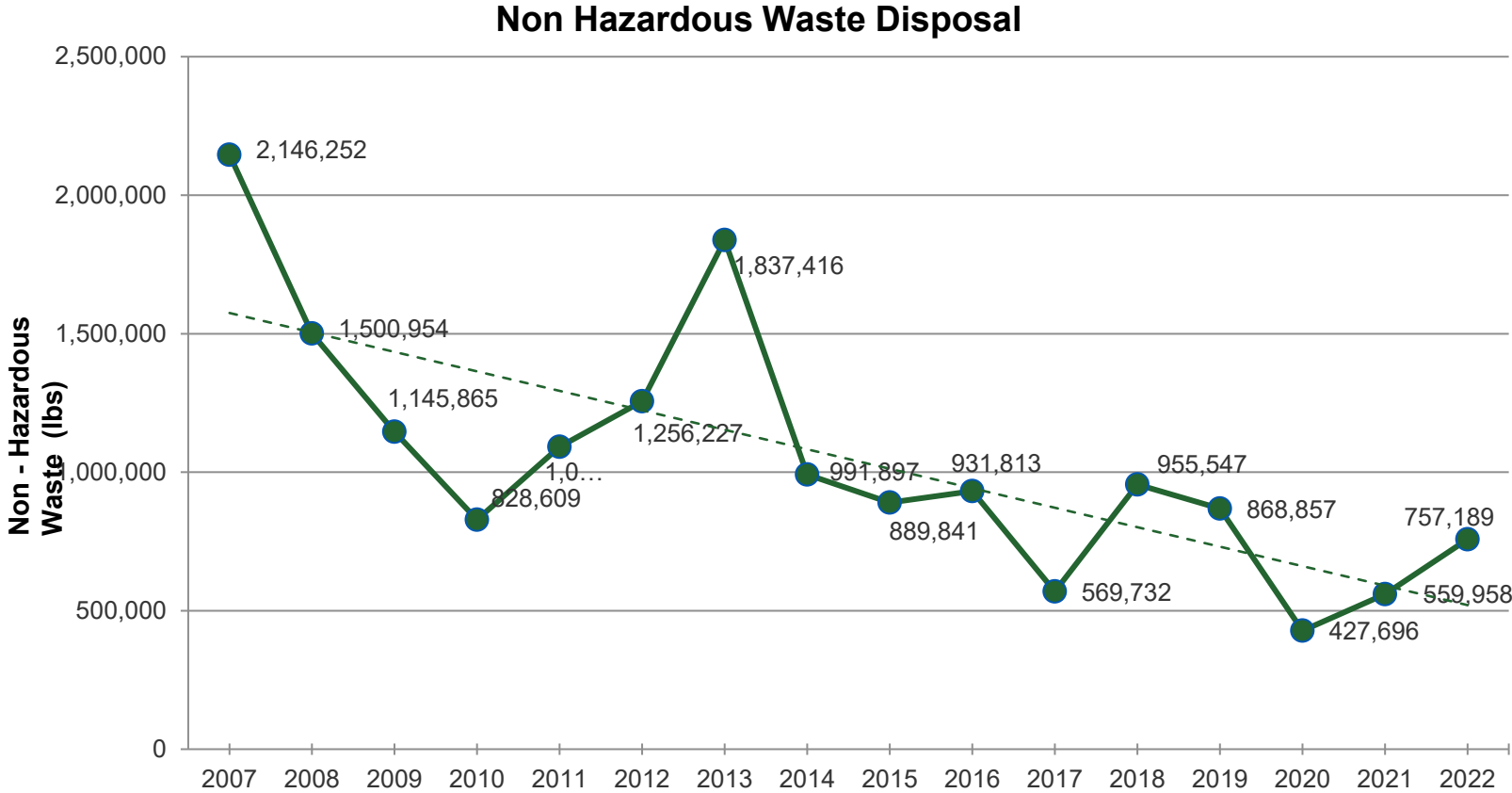
**Hazardous & Universal Waste Generation**



Since the adoption of ISO 14001, the City of Dallas has seen significant reduction in the generation of hazardous and universal waste.

- ◆ Hazardous Waste
- ▲ Universal Waste
- - - Linear (Hazardous Waste)
- - - Linear (Universal Waste)

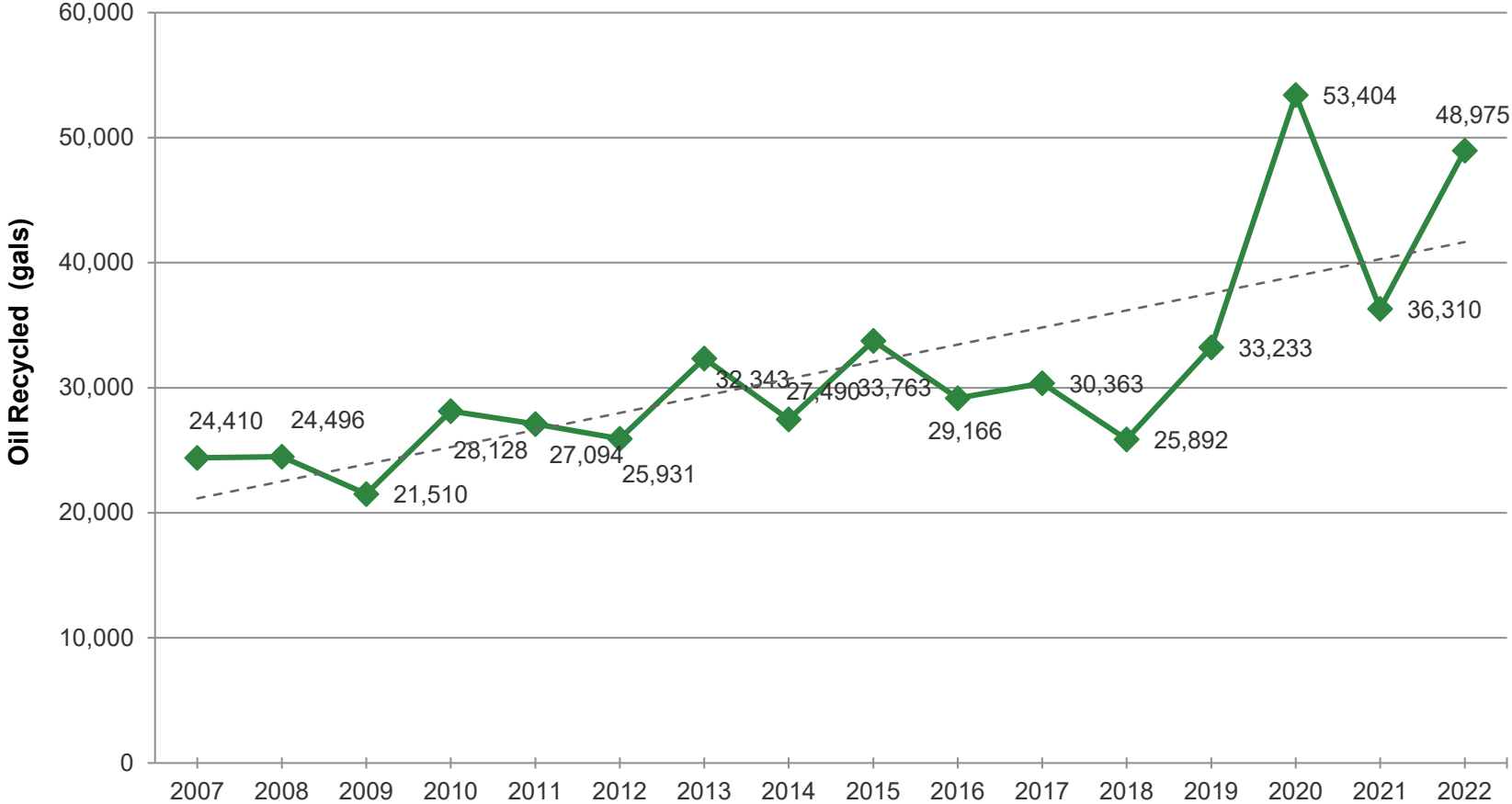
# Enhanced Environmental Performance: Waste Production



The City of Dallas has seen a significant decrease in non-hazardous waste disposal since adoption of ISO 14001.

# Enhanced Environmental Performance: Waste Production

### Used Oil Recycled



The City of Dallas has doubled the amount of used oil recycled since the adoption of ISO 14001.

# Benefits

1. Enhanced environmental performance
- 2. Regulatory compliance**
3. Risk management
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## Regulatory Compliance

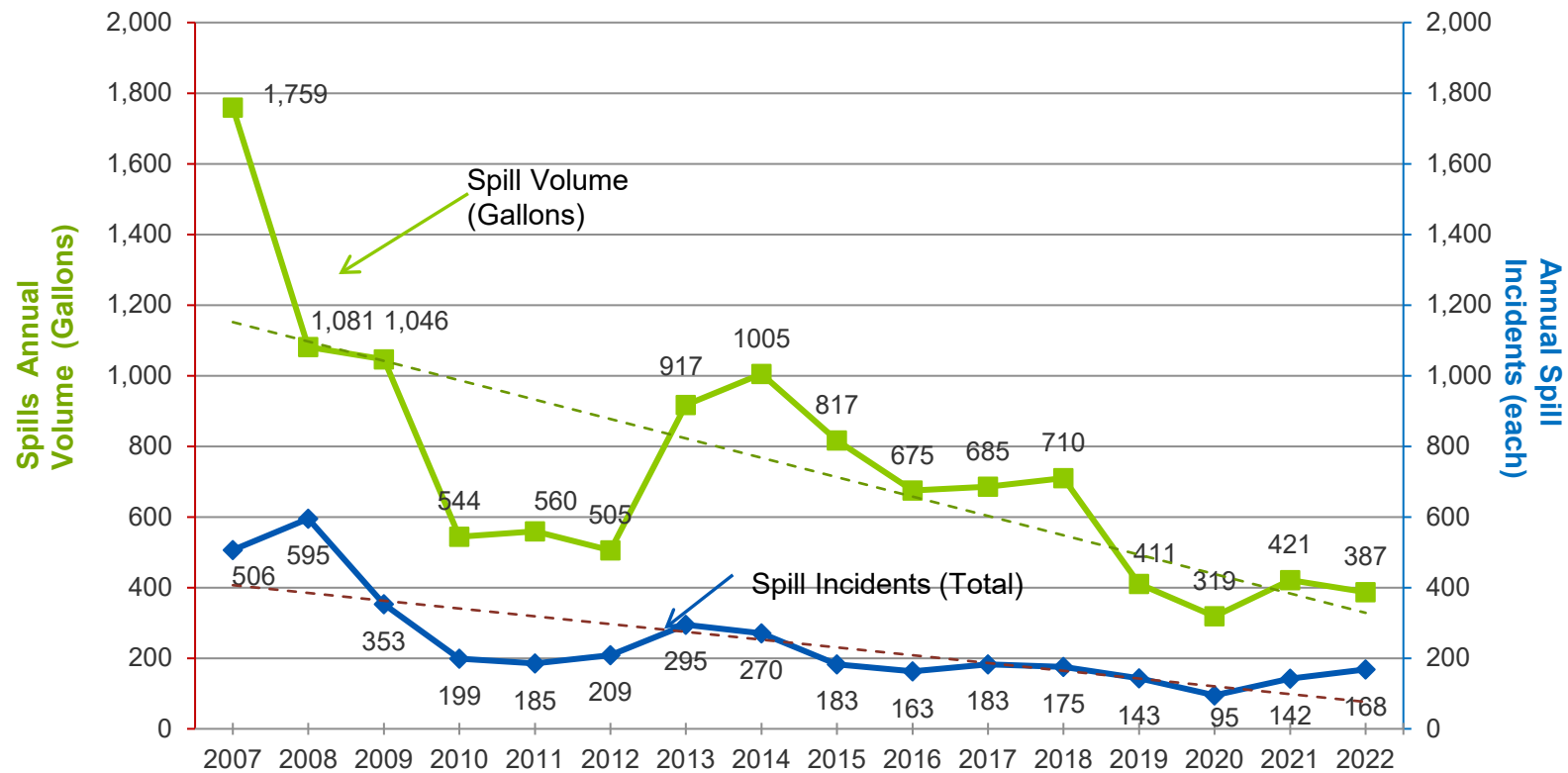
### Number of Compliance Findings Identified FY21-FY24 through Internal Audits

- Waste Management – 24
- Right-to-Know – 19
- Impact to MS4 – 5
- Petroleum Storage Tank – 3
- Spill Prevention – 3

## Benefits

1. Enhanced environmental performance
2. Regulatory compliance
- 3. Risk management**
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## Spills At Consent Decree Facilities



Spills, the inciting issue that led to the Consent Decree, have been greatly mitigated through efforts supported and encouraged by the EMS.

## Benefits

1. Enhanced environmental performance
2. Regulatory compliance
3. Risk management
4. **Cost savings**
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6. Stakeholder and customer trust

# Cost Savings

There are significant cost savings from avoiding enforcement for potential violations found during compliance assessments.

Violation Type	Administrative Penalty
Petroleum Storage Tank (30 TAC)	\$0 - \$25,000 per violation, per day
Occupational Licenses (TWC)	\$0 - \$5,000 per violation, per day
Used Oil (THSC, TWC)	\$0 - \$5,000 per violation, per day
Risk Management Planning (CAA)	\$0 - \$32,500 per violation, per day
Hazardous Waste (30 TAC)	\$0 - \$25,000 per violation, per day

# Benefits

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3. Risk management
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## Stakeholder and Customer Trust

The City of Dallas is one of the very small number of US Cities that maintains an ISO 14001:2015 Certification, including:

- Port of Los Angeles, California
- Port of Houston, Texas
- City and County of Denver, Colorado
- City of Lowell, Massachusetts (Wastewater)



# ISO 14001:2026 History and Next Steps

# ISO 14001 History and Next Steps



**2008**

Obtained accredited third-party ISO 14001:2004 certification on June 3, 2008.



**2019**

Upgraded to the new, ISO 14001:2015 edition of the standard.



**2026**

New ISO 14001:2026 standard expected to be published April 2026.



**2029**

The City will have until 2029 to implement and certify to the new edition of the standard.

## ISO 14001:2026 Update and Changes

ISO 14001:2026 is the upcoming version on the ISO 14001 standard, replacing ISO 14001:2015. It maintains the same core structure but introduces new terminology, refined clauses and stronger focus on environmental performance.

**New Standard Published: Expected April 2026**

**Transition Deadline: 3-year period (2029)**



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