



Missouri Environmental Management Partnership

Division of Environmental Quality fact sheet

8/2006

The Missouri Environmental Management Partnership (MEMP) was developed by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to recognize and reward top environmental commitment and performance in Missouri. The department began the voluntary program to encourage all organizations, large and small, public and private, to improve their environmental performance by developing and implementing an environmental management system (EMS).



An EMS is a set of management processes and procedures to identify, analyze, control and reduce the environmental impact of an organization's activities, products and services. An EMS integrates environmental management into daily operations as well as into strategic organizational decisions and as such becomes the responsibility of everyone in the organization. Organizations with an EMS move beyond traditional environmental compliance and seek the root causes of their impacts to reduce or remove them. As such, their environmental liability is diminished and their operations are more sustainable.

Partnership Goals

By encouraging the use of EMS's, our goals for the partnership are to

- Increase the number of top performing facilities in Missouri
- Reduce contaminant releases
- Increase the application of pollution prevention principles
- Provide appropriate and allowable regulatory incentives to member facilities
- Allow the agency to refocus its resources on facilities of most concern
- Encourage a culture of continually increasing environmental performance, and
- Enhance the agency's relationship with the regulated community.

These goals enhance the agency's efforts to protect and improve the environment and do so fairly, efficiently and voluntarily without more command and control.

Requirements

Entry into the program is voluntary, and an organization may withdraw at any time. Organizations have a variety of participation options to fit their specific situations. Generally recognized EMS criteria are required (ISO 14001 or similar approach), including a commitment to regulatory compliance, continual improvement through performance-based objectives, and periodic review and evaluation of performance.

Incentives

The partnership offers a range of possible incentives to its members, according to their level of participation in the program. These include

- various forms of recognition,
- a single point of contact within the department,
- permitting incentives
- enforcement considerations.

For more information

Contact us! Department staff will provide detailed information and training on the EMS requirements for participation in the partnership.

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