



# The National Park Service EnviroFact Sheet

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## Environmental Management Systems (EMS) (G-5)

**DRAFT**

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**EMS** is a management approach that formally integrates environmental considerations into day-to-day decisions and practices.

Many parks are likely to have already incorporated many elements of an EMS into their daily operations. A formal documented EMS, however, provides managers with a more effective tool to tackle environmental concerns and issues that stem from day-to-day business.

A well-implemented EMS allows a facility to move from *reactive* mode (e.g., cleaning up after a hazardous waste spill) to *proactive* mode (e.g., establishing systems to anticipate and ensure a spill does not occur in the first place, or even identifying opportunities to eliminate waste completely).

A few of the benefits of having an effective EMS include:

- Improved environmental performance;
- Enhanced compliance,
- Pollution prevention and resource conservation;
- Reduced liability; and
- Reduced/mitigated risks.

A park's EMS should build upon existing programs, which is less costly compared to adopting a new system to handle environmental issues.

### FOR MORE INFO...

EPA's EMS web page:  
<http://www.epa.gov/ems/>  
Dept. of Energy EMS Primer for Federal Facilities:  
<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/oepa/guidance/ems/emsprimer.pdf>  
EPA Region 2, Federal Facilities Program:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region02/ff>

### APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

Under Executive Order (EO) 13148, *Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management*, federal agencies were to implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) at all appropriate agency facilities by December 31, 2005. An *appropriate NPS facility* is any facility with operations having environmental impacts. In January of 2007, EO 13148 was revoked and replaced by EO 13432, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, which establishes new goals for EMS implementation at federal facilities.

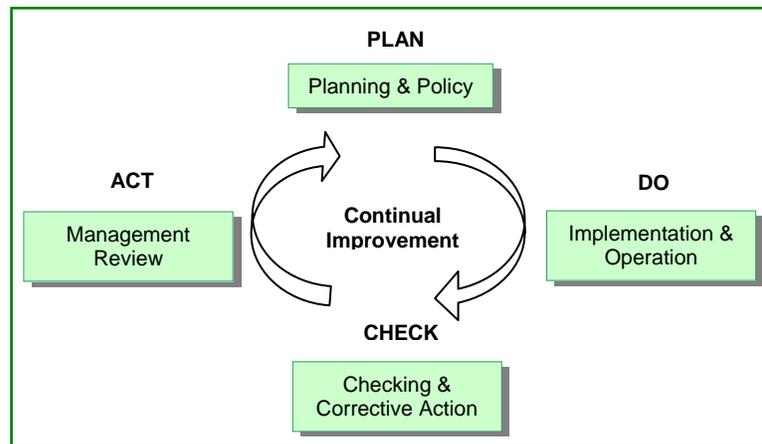
### KEY ELEMENTS OF AN EMS

A facility's EMS should be based upon the Code of Environmental Management Principles (CEMP) for federal agencies and/or another *appropriate environmental management framework*. Another EMS framework is ISO 14001—the international standard commonly adopted by private industry and some Department of Energy and Department of Defense facilities. While EMS standards and models may vary, they generally include the following elements:

- *Policy Statement* — a statement of the organization's commitment to the environment.
- *Identification of Significant Environmental Impacts* — environmental attributes of facility operations, activities and services and their effects on the environment (e.g., identification of hazardous waste streams or discharges of wastewater).
- *Development of Objectives and Targets* — specific environmental goals for the facility (e.g., "The Park will reduce its hazardous waste generation by 50% by 2006.").
- *Implementation Plan*—formal plan to meet the park's objectives and targets (e.g., "Non-hazardous solvents will be substituted for hazardous waste solvents used in the auto shop.").
- *Program Implementation*—the institution of processes and procedures including documentation and documentation control, training, budget allocation and other resources to execute the EMS.
- *Management Review*—a formal commitment to continuous improvement of the system's performance.

### EMS MODELS

An EMS follows a Plan-Do-Check-Act Cycle that focuses on continual improvement. The diagram at the right shows the process. Parks first must develop an environmental policy, plan the EMS, and then implement it. Next, the system should be checked and corrections made, if needed. Finally, park management should review the entire process. The model is continuous because improvements should be made throughout the cycle, as they are identified.



EMS Model

### GOING "BEYOND COMPLIANCE"

Being compliant with environmental regulations is the primary goal of most environmental programs. When a facility is compliant, it manages to just keep its head above water. However, simply setting compliance as the primary goal should not keep a facility from looking for better ways to conduct operations that are easier, less costly and less harmful to the environment. Going beyond compliance encourages participation at all staff levels to improve and coordinate management, rather than relying on management directives.

## EMS COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

Checklist Item	Notes
1. Ensure that the park has implemented or is progressing towards implementing an EMS.	
2. Determine if park management has established an environmental policy and conveyed it to park staff.	
3. Ensure that park staff is aware of all operations that have environmental impacts.	
4. Ensure that environmental responsibilities are included in the job descriptions of park staff.	
5. Determine if park staff is aware of regulatory requirements that impact their operations (e.g., auto shop staff know regulations that apply to used oil, parts washers using solvents, solvent soaked rags and used antifreeze).	
6. Determine if someone at the park is designated to keep track of regulatory changes and DOI or NPS policy that deal with environmental impacts at their park.	
7. Ensure that the park has reported its progress to WASO via the NPS Intranet at: <a href="http://pfmd1.nps.gov/EMP/ems/directUser.cfm">http://pfmd1.nps.gov/EMP/ems/directUser.cfm</a>	