

Environmental Management Systems



What is an Environmental Management System?

The intent of an EMS is to apply a systematic approach to managing environmental issues which would allow for continual improvement. Our EMS aids in preparing Texas A&M for future regulatory compliance issues and improving pollution prevention while continuing to focus on creating a sustainable environment. The EMS is a constant cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing, and improving processes and actions to meet the environmental goals of the University.



Initiatives, such as Energy Action Plan, have helped Texas A&M reduce its carbon footprint.

Why an EMS?

- ◆ Improve Environmental Performance
- ◆ Increase Efficiency
- ◆ Competitive Advantage
- ◆ Improved Compliance
- ◆ Recognition
- ◆ Reduced Cost
- ◆ Improve Public Image
- ◆ Regulatory Incentives
- ◆ Required by System Policy: 24.04 Environment

An EMS looks beyond legal requirements to impacts like energy use, carbon dioxide emissions, and product purchasing. It depends on the environmental stewardship of everyone. Environmental impacts are the responsibility of all at Texas A&M University.



How does it work?

Plan: Identify environmental aspects and establish goals.

Do: Implement, train and develop operational controls for established goals.

Check: monitoring and corrective action for those controls. This will ensure performance of the EMS will improve over time and that the EMS is meeting goals.

Act: Review, audit and act to resolve.



Who is involved?

In 2005, former President Gates charged EHS with the creation of an EMS on campus. The Environmental Management Committee began meeting in September of 2007. In 2008, Texas A&M created the Office of Sustainability. Soon after, the Sustainability and Environmental Management Committee (SEMC) was created. Members of the committee include: Environmental Health and Safety, Faculty, Procurement Services, Students, SSC, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M Risk Management, TEES, TEEX, Transportation Services, TTI, and TVMDL.

The SEMC Mission

The SEMC serves as an advisory committee to the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration and Environmental Health and Safety. The SEMC drafts and reviews environmental policy and programs and recommends methods of improving compliance, pollution prevention, education, environmental stewardship and sustainability.

President Michael Young signed an updated environmental policy June 2016.

For more information about the EMS you can contact Tassie Hermann or Jeff Truss at 979-845-2132 or by email at theenvironment@tamu.edu.