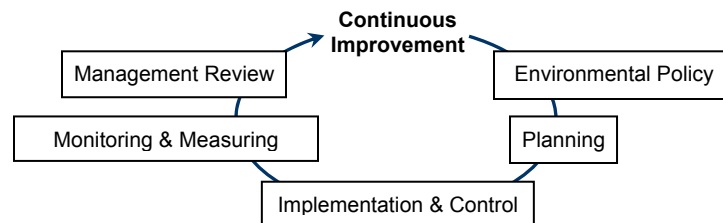


Senior Management Briefing Fact Sheet on EMS

What is an EMS? An EMS is a globally embraced business management practice that allows an organization to strategically address its environmental, health and safety matters. EMS implementation reflects accepted quality management principles based on the “Plan, Do, Check, Act,” model (shown below) using a standard process to identify goals, implement them, determine progress, and make improvements to ensure continual improvement.



In an EMS, this effort focuses on:

- **Environmental Policy** development and endorsement,
- **Planning** activities by identifying environmental impacts and related legal and other requirements; and developing objectives and targets to control and improve performance related to environmental issues,
- **Implementing** activities and operations, including training and documentation, to achieve the objectives and maintain control over environmental issues,
- **Monitoring and measuring** the status of environmental parameters, status of objectives and targets, compliance status, and the health of the EMS itself, and providing procedures for corrective action in cases where data indicate non-conformance, and
- **Management review** of information for action, including enhancing the EMS towards the goal of continual improvement.

Why should we support EMS in the Federal Government? EMSs enhance budgetary planning and overall performance by integrating management of environmental issues into organization management through a formal process of planning, performance measurement, and review. EMSs help federal organizations and facilities identify and reduce risk, achieve compliance with regulation, and respond to Administration environmental performance goals. It is prudent then for the federal government to adopt the concept of the EMS model to manage its environmental affairs. Because of its size, geographic distribution, and range of activities, the federal government significantly interacts with the environment. In addition, the government expends a large amount of resources, both human and financial, on managing its environmental affairs.