



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



- a cooperative effort -

County of Augusta
Augusta County Service Authority
Augusta County Public Schools

WHAT IS AN EMS?

An EMS is an Environmental Management System, which is a management tool that establishes procedures and processes in order to prevent pollution and protect the environment. The system provides order and consistency by allocating resources, assigning responsibilities, and continually evaluating practices, procedures, and processes.

An EMS consists of ISO 14001 Standards and DEQ Virginia Environmental Excellence Program requirements. These elements are:

- Environmental policy
- Aspects
- Aspect Management containing:
 - objectives, targets, and action
 - operational control
 - monitoring and measurement
 - nonconformity, corrective, and preventive action
- Resources, roles, responsibility, and authority
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Evaluation of compliance
- Management review
- Legal and other requirements
- Competence, training, and awareness
- Communication
- Documentation
- Control of documents and records
- Internal audits



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

The government of Augusta County is committed to being good stewards and promoting the protection of the environment. To demonstrate this commitment to its employees and citizens, Augusta County will:

- Develop Environmental Management System (EMS) programs to Virginia Environmental Excellence Program standards for Augusta County, the Augusta County Service Authority, and Augusta County Public School facilities.
- Meet and strive to exceed all applicable environmental laws, regulations, and municipal standards.
- Educate and train employees for enhanced environmental performance and increased awareness of environmental issues.
- Practice the principles of preventing pollution at all facilities by:
 - reducing waste
 - recycling
 - monitoring hazardous materials
 - safe and responsible disposal of all residual waste
 - conserving our natural resources
 - considering alternative methods or products
 - conservation of energy
- Continually improve environmental performance through self-assessment and by responsibly correcting conditions that are potentially harmful to the environment.
- Develop and periodically review environmental objectives, targets, actions, and operational procedures as part of the facility's Environmental Management System (EMS).
- Promote the education of all citizens in the awareness of environmental issues and prevention of pollution.
- Encourage the use of sound environmental principles and practices by all vendors, local businesses, and industries utilized by Augusta County, the Augusta County Service Authority, and Augusta County Public School facilities.
- To be responsive to the concerns and suggestions of County citizens regarding environmental issues.
- Develop and maintain procedures for promptly and effectively dealing with environmental emergencies, i.e., disaster preparedness and emergency response plans.

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Patrick Coffield, County Administrator
Kenneth Fanfani, Executive Director, ACSA

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

In February 2002, the government of Augusta County, the Augusta County Service Authority, and Augusta County Public Schools came together to begin the process of developing an Environmental Management System (EMS). Each entity designated a team member.

Upon training to develop environmental programs to ISO 14001 and DEQ Standards, the team developed and implemented its first program for the Vehicle Service Centers, which included the ACSA Shop and the Augusta County Public Schools Bus Garage. These facilities were the first to receive DEQ E³ certification for any county government in the state. Since this time, environmental programs have been developed and implemented. These facilities are listed on the back of this brochure.

E³ certification is a designation given to facilities meeting requirements under Virginia Environmental Excellence Program requirements.

By obtaining E³ designation, Augusta County will become a leader in the prevention of pollution and good stewardship toward the environment. Although not assured, by receiving E³ designation, it will help prevent violations from occurring.



For more information, visit the web:

DEQ's Environmental Excellence Program
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaEnvironmentalExcellenceProgram.aspx>
Augusta County's EMS Program
<http://www.co.augusta.va.us/Index.aspx?page=846>

E³ CERTIFIED FACILITIES:

Vehicle Service Centers:

ACSA Shop
ACPS Bus Garage

Government Center complex:

Administration Building
Maintenance Building
Extension Office
Social Services Building
Fire-Rescue Training Building

ACSA Wastewater Treatment Facilities:

Mt. Sidney
Vesper View
Greenville
Fishersville
Stuarts Draft
New Hope
Harriston
Weyers Cave
Middle River
Hugh Cassell (owned by ACPS)

Public High Schools:

Buffalo Gap
Ft. Defiance
Stuarts Draft
Wilson Memorial
Riverheads

NON-CERTIFIED FACILITIES:

Augusta Regional Landfill



KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- Be environmentally aware
- Do your part to prevent pollution
- That Augusta County is recognized as an Exemplary Environmental Enterprise (E³) by the Department of Environmental Quality
- That the County has an environmental policy
- That there are benefits to an EMS such as: cost savings, reduced risk, increased operational efficiency, positive external relations and public image, improved communication, greater employee stewardship, and shared environmental solutions



Morgan B. Shrewsbury
Environmental Programs Manager
Augusta County Administrator's Office
PO Box 590
Verona, Virginia 24482

Phone 540-245-5700;
Email MShrewsbury@co.augusta.va.us