

# Solid Waste EMS Overview

June 2, 2022

SOLID WASTE Environmental  
Management  
System

*Committed to Continuous Improvement*



# EMS Background

- ⦿ Alternative to Comprehensive Planning
- ⦿ Way to improve environmental performance not measured by diversion rate
- ⦿ Forward-thinking approach to reducing environmental impacts across Iowa
- ⦿ Based on collaborative development

# EMS Background

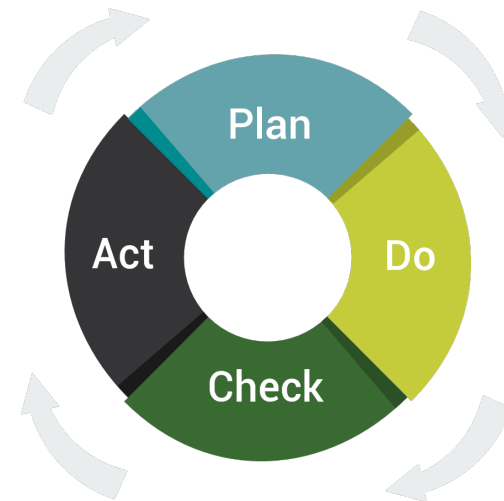
- ◉ Legislation passed into law in 2008:  
A voluntary alternative to Comprehensive Planning (Iowa Law 455J)
- ◉ Rule implementation in 2011 after Pilot Program (Iowa Rule IAC 567)



Stakeholders, legislators and Department staff crafted the Iowa Solid Waste EMS legislation and rule

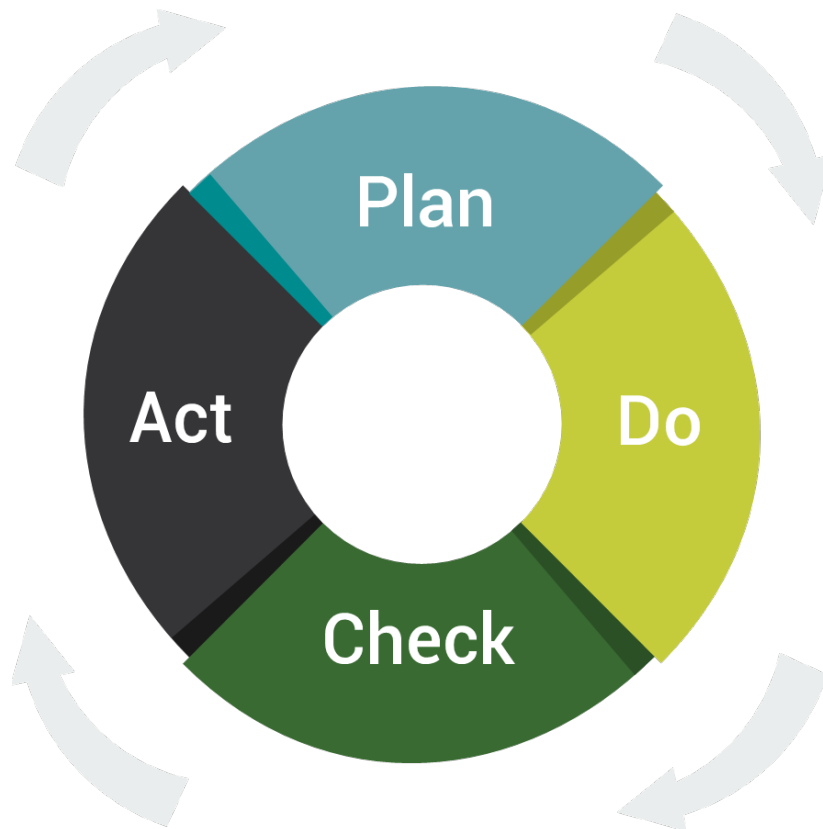
# What is an EMS?

- ◎ Systematic Process for **Managing Environmental Risks** and **Continually Improving Environmental Performance**
  - A Business System Applied to the Environmental Impacts of the Organization
  - Includes Policies, Management Processes, Training and Procedures
  - Not Exclusively Focused on Compliance Requirements
  - Strives for Reviewing, Analyzing, Controlling and Reducing Impacts
  - Requires Ongoing Implementation and Continuous Improvement



# Continuous Improvement

- Following the proven continuous improvement cycle to make environmental change



# What is an EMS?



**I** Identify and rank environmental risks

**D** Develop controls to minimize risks

**E** Establish systems (policy, training, communication, documentation)

**A** Assess and update

# Benefits



- Improved Environmental Compliance
- Reduced Environmental Impacts
- Clarity of Responsibilities and Expectations
- Fewer “Fire Drills”
- Cost Avoidance and Increased Efficiency
- Increased Understanding and Awareness of Environmental Requirements and Impacts by Staff
- Positive Recognition

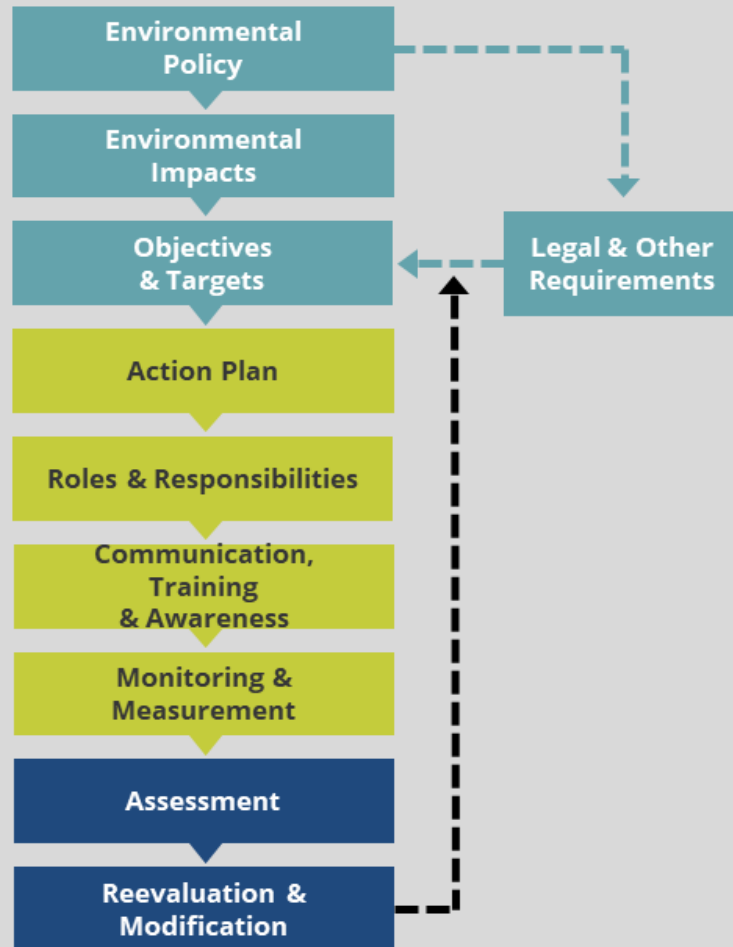


# Iowa Solid Waste EMS Framework

- Actively Pursuing Six Program Components



- By Implementing a Framework of 10 Elements





# “Successful Implementation”

- ⦿ 10 Elements of the EMS are in Place and Functioning
  - Perfection is Not Expected!
  - Process of Continual Improvement is Implemented
- ⦿ EMS is Providing Real and Measurable Environmental Improvements
  - With a Focus on the 6 Plan Components



**Organics Management**



**Greenhouse Gas Reduction**



**Household Hazardous  
Materials Collection**



**Recycling Services**



**Water Quality  
Improvement**



**Environmental Education**



# Support for EMS Implementation

- ◎ DNR and Gresham Smith Will Coach Participants to Implement the 10 Elements of an EMS
  - Balance On-site and Web-based Training
- ◎ Components of the Support
  - Kickoff Meeting
  - Webinar Trainings
  - On-Site Meetings
  - Annual Conferences (November)
  - Auditor Training (February)
  - Monthly Conference Calls
  - Many Examples and Templates
  - Mentoring from Other Participant










# Training Provided on Each of the 10 Elements of the EMS

- ◉ Lecture with PowerPoint Presentations– Webinar or Onsite
- ◉ Exercises
- ◉ EMS Examples
- ◉ “Homework” Between Meetings
- ◉ EMS Conference for all Participants










# EMS Project Milestones & Guidance

# EMS Implementation Milestones

Date	Task Type		Task Activity
June	Training-Virtual		EMR and EMS Core Team Management Support Fenceline Environmental Policy
June	Submittal		Environmental Policy EMS Fenceline
July	Training-Virtual		Identify Environmental Aspects and Impacts
Juy	Submittal		List of Environmental Aspects and Impacts
July	Training-Onsite		Summer EMS Workshop with Tier 1's & 2's Setting Objectives and Targets/Action Plans
August	Submittal		Draft Objective and Target(s)
Sept 1st	Submittal		Annual Report (Modified Version 1st Year)

# EMS Implementation Milestones (cont.)



Date	Task Type		Task Activity
September	Training-Virtual		Objectives and Targets (Review) Action Plans Monitoring and Measurement
November	Training-Onsite		Annual Conference with Tier 1's & 2's Communication, Training & Awareness Roles and Responsibilities Writing EMS Procedures
January	Submittal		EMS Procedures (1 <sup>st</sup> Batch)
Late Winter	Training-Virtual		Internal EMS Auditor Training Legal and Other Requirements Reevaluation and Modification
May	Submittal		EMS Procedures (2 <sup>nd</sup> Batch)
June	Submittal		EMS Procedures (3 <sup>rd</sup> Batch)
Sept. 1st	Submittal		Annual Report



# Conference Calls

- Individual Conversation with the EMS Core Team
- Problem and Roadblock Discussions
- One-on-One Assistance with Issues
- Discussion of Homework Review
- Documentation of Lessons Learned and Successes



# On-Site Meetings

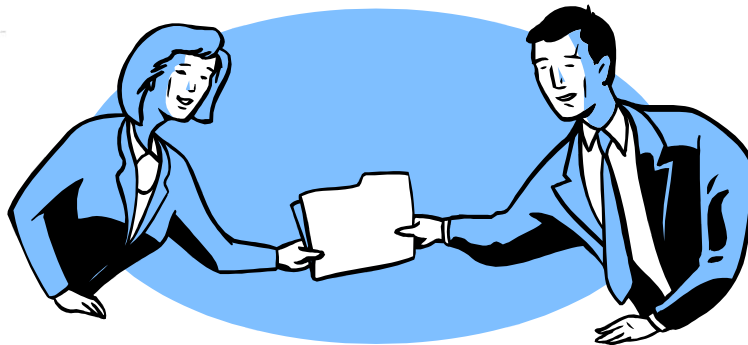
- ◎ Focus on Specific Areas of Assistance:
  - Objectives and Targets
  - Communication, Training and Awareness
  - Roles and Responsibilities
- ◎ Other Areas, As Needed
  - Training for EMS Core Team/Staff
  - Areas of Difficulty





# Sharing Resources

- ◎ Links, Examples, Templates and Other Resources
  - Policies
  - Procedures
  - Schedules With Milestone Due Dates
  - Other Documents
- ◎ Networking with Mentor and Other Participants



# Best Practices



- ◎ Make Use of the Conference Calls
  - Prepare a List of Questions/Concerns/Comments
- ◎ Stay On Track with Homework
  - Communicate Difficulties in Advance
- ◎ Don't Expect Perfection
  - Be Patient and Take Incremental Steps
- ◎ Ask for Help !!!
  - Share the Good, Bad, and Ugly
  - Use your Mentor



SOLID WASTE

**E**nvironmental  
**M**anagement  
**S**ystem

*Committed to Continuous Improvement*