

Fact Sheet



Making a difference with a systematic approach

One of Chesterfield County's strategic goals is "to be responsible protectors of the environment." The county is continuously working to achieve that goal through its Environmental Management Systems. Established in 2002, this organization-wide approach to protecting the environment has three fundamental purposes:

- preventing pollution
- complying with environmental laws or regulations
- making continuous improvement toward protecting the environment.

The Environmental Management Systems is a tool that county departments and divisions use to analyze, control and reduce impacts on the environment while achieving greater operational efficiency in how programs and services are delivered.

The organization-wide approach to the county's Environmental Management System is enabling county departments and divisions to successfully reduce their impacts on the environment. Following are just a few examples:

- The Fleet Management division's voluntary efforts to learn and study what impacts it has on the environment and then work to reduce them has earned the county certification with the International Organization for Standardization. One way it's reducing its impacts is by using Clean Burn furnaces powered by recycled vehicle oil to heat facilities.
- The Parks and Recreation Department has significantly reduced its use of aerosol paint cans of which it previously used more than 8,000 a year to mark sports fields.
- Waste and Resource Recovery has expanded opportunities for county residents to recycle through its curbside program and opportunities at its convenience centers.
- Multiple departments are participating in a pilot program using bio-diesel to fuel vehicles, which has reduced harmful air emissions.

- The Department of Utilities' Proctors Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is an active participant in the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Virginia Environmental Excellence Program and is the state's first wastewater facility to achieve that program's Exemplary Environmental Enterprise status.
- The Public Safety Training Center in Enon has been equipped with a new bullet trap and ionization unit that reduces the impact of lead on the environment.
- Storm-water runoff is being managed at several facilities to reduce pollution entering local waterways.
- The county has established measures to conserve electricity in buildings and has organized a conservation awareness campaign in county high schools.

A Proven Method

The Environmental Management System uses a proven approach to not only identify ways to reduce environmental impacts, but also to make those reductions happen. It incorporates the "Plan - Do - Study - Act" model.

PLAN - Identify environmental aspects and impacts, consider associated legal obligations and policies; define priorities, objectives and targets; and set an action plan.

DO - Set the course of action; provide training and establish controls; communicate; and implement programs.

STUDY - Monitor what's being done; measure its effectiveness; identify areas of non-conformance; determine root causes; and establish possible corrective or preventive actions.

ACT - Review and evaluate processes and suggest improvements.

Multiple benefits

A reduction in the county's impact on the environment isn't the only benefit of using its Environmental Management System. It also benefits the county by:

- reducing risks
- providing assurance that the county is in compliance with environmental regulations

- increasing efficiency
- improving communication among departments and divisions
- building positive relationships with state and federal regulators as well as county residents
- reducing costs



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