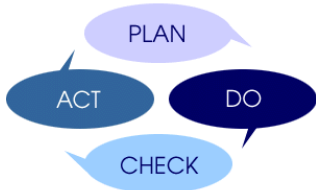




Introducing REMS, the Regional Environmental Management System



WHAT is an Environmental Management System (EMS) approach?

An EMS is an internationally recognized “Best Practices” tool that enables an organization to set goals with respect to managing their facilities’ environmental impacts and to establish planning, staffing, and operational procedures needed to achieve those goals. An EMS provides a systematic way (Plan-Do-Check-Act) to review and improve operations for better organizational performance.

WHAT is a Regional Environmental Management System (REMS) approach?

A regional partnership of public, private and community organizations that work together to:

- a. Address and promote regional, local, and partnering organizations’ environmental priorities
- b. Increase communication and trust among partnering organizations
- c. Improve environmental best-practices sharing among partnering organizations



HOW does a REMS model work?

- Applies an EMS understanding and approach to regional and local environmental challenges
- Identifies shared local, regional, state, and federal priorities relevant to the partnering organizations
- Is driven by the partners, thereby focusing efforts on individual goals and those of the partnership
- Facilitates regular (transparent) communications among partners and documents partnership efforts
- Provides neutral facilitation and partnership support
- Finds new cost-effective business cases to exceed environmental requirements and goals through voluntary approaches (e.g., energy conservation, regional watershed approaches, wetland mitigation)

How do we implement REMS?

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1st | Identify initial partners |
| Next | Build trust by establishing common language, education, and process for regular communication and collaboration |
| Then | Review partners’ environmental priorities and future goals/ requirements |
| Ongoing | Identify potential voluntary collaborative opportunities and share information about best practices |

WHAT are the key elements to successful REMS implementation?

- ✓ Individual partners are champions of the REMS process
- ✓ Senior management endorses and commits to participation in REMS
- ✓ Partners select and share common goals
- ✓ Regular communication and information exchange builds trust among partnering organizations
- ✓ Ongoing measurement of progress towards goals builds a business case

HOW has this process been tested?

The first REMS partnership in the nation, the Virginia Regional Environmental Management System (V-REMS), began in the Richmond, Virginia area in March 2003. Originally sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR) continues to find value in the program and has provided ongoing support to continue moving the program forward. The DSCR won the White House Closing the Circle Award in 2005 for its leadership of the V-REMS partnership.



Virginia Regional Environmental Management System (V-REMS): A model for successful implementation of a regional approach in Virginia

Augusta County • Chesterfield County • City of Charlottesville • City of Hopewell • City of Portsmouth • City of Richmond • Crater Planning District • Defense Supply Center Richmond • Dupont • EPA Region 3 • Fort A.P. Hill • Fort Lee • Fort Eustis • GETF • Henrico County • Honda • Honeywell • Hopewell County School Bus District • Hopewell Wastewater Treatment Facility • Quantico Marine Corps Base • Richmond Regional Planning District Commission • Richmond County School Bus District • Ridefinders • Tysons • Ukrops Supermarkets • US Army • US Navy • VA Army National Guard • VA DEQ • VA DGS • Virginia Tech

What makes V-REMS successful?

- ✓ Sense of community and common purpose among partnering organizations
- ✓ Trust-building across partners
- ✓ Regular communications and face-to-face interaction
- ✓ Neutral facilitation and partnership support
- ✓ Champions and strong support by a few leading partners
- ✓ Regulatory agency participation
- ✓ Reports on progress and impacts; accountability
- ✓ Shared outreach opportunities through best practices sharing and leveraging of partners' respective experiences and knowledge
- ✓ Creative and innovative voluntary approaches to regional environmental priorities
- ✓ Dynamic and continuously evolving voluntary process
- ✓ An understanding that organizations can improve their bottom line through participation in V-REMS

What steps were involved in developing the successful V-REMS model?

- ✓ Reviewing historical "regional" environmental related issues
- ✓ Understanding values/culture of the partners
- ✓ Focused, progress oriented, and frequent meetings and discussion
- ✓ Establishing open discussion on a level playing field among all parties, including regulatory agencies
- ✓ Establishing common language and priorities
- ✓ Establishing internal and external communication system
- ✓ Near term and long term environmental priorities
- ✓ Establishing structure, group processes/mechanisms for partnership while avoiding bureaucracy



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