

Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

Purpose

The purpose of an EMS is to ensure that the environment is appropriately valued and managed. In particular, the EMS considers the biological and physical elements of a garden/organisation's surroundings including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interaction (Standards Australia/New Zealand 2004). An EMS is developed to improve a garden/organisation's environmental performance and to report on progress (EPA 2006, Thomas 2005).

An EMS does not set environmental standards, but sets out procedures designed to meet environmental performance requirements that are most relevant to the organisation. (EPA 2006)

An EMS is necessary for an organisation to remain a leader in industry, to protect its reputation, to respond to climate change, to comply with organisational objectives, to reduce the risk of exposure and to improve community relations (Welford 1996). The EMS will help maintain the role of an organisation as a leading example to the community and industry.

Aim

The aim of the EMS is to embed environmental management into the operational management of a garden/organisation through the introduction of a systematic approach to assess and control impacts on the environment. The aim is to avoid, reduce or control the creation, emission, discharge of any type of pollution or waste (Standards Australia/New Zealand 2004).

Sources

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