



Development of an Environmental Management Plan

According to the ISO 14001 EMS Standard, the major contents of an EMS must address (1) compliance, (2) continual improvement, and (3) pollution prevention.

1. Comply with the law

What is the campus process for insuring compliance with the law? Complying with the law will help UNH avoid unnecessary penalties, bad publicity and negative impacts upon the environment. No one wants to go home and read about their place of employment as “polluting.” Yet, many public agencies have not set up an internal review process to collectively ensure compliance with environmental regulations.

2. Continual Improvement

Continual improvement is a requirement of the plan. If we set a goal to reduce solid waste, for example, then as we reach this goal we will be required under the EMS to plan new ways to develop and reach new goals: greater savings, longer range planning for capital expenditures and new technology. There are always changes coming along that will assist in this process. The goal is to develop a plan that will communicate techniques to expedite environmental improvement.

3. Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention is a final requirement of the plan. The state and federal government have instituted numerous programs on Pollution Prevention (P2) initiatives that encourage development of alternatives to products that present a threat to the environment. The plan should find ways to minimize pollution at UNH. A start would be to show that pollution negatively impacts our community and to demonstrate the impact of such behavior. An EMS will require everyone to consider methods to control and prevent pollution.