



BRONZE

Bronze Level EMS Track Criteria

Bronze Partners have made a sincere commitment to environmental performance and have started to tackle environmental challenges. They have begun to implement procedures to proactively and systematically address many of these issues.

Prerequisites

Environmental team

An environmental team is in place, made up of employees representing each major function of the facility/organization, with an assigned team leader.

Environmental policy

A written environmental policy has been developed by the environmental team and approved by the facility/organization's top management. This policy includes commitments to:

- a) Comply with both environmental legal requirements and voluntary commitments that your organization has made
- b) Prevent pollution at its source whenever possible
- c) Continually improve your environmental performance
- d) Share information with your community about your environmental performance and how your environmental management system (EMS) operates.

Commitments

Over the next three years* as a Bronze Partner in the EMS Track, you commit to:

Baseline

Document the amount of waste that your facility/organization currently generates and the natural resources it consumes (e.g., solid waste, energy, water, water discharges, materials).

Aspects

Determine your aspects and prioritize which are significant.

An aspect is any element of your activities, products, or services that could have an impact on the environment. You decide which aspects are "significant." Organizations often base this decision on potential environmental impact, legal or self-imposed requirements, marketplace demand, community concerns, or cost-reduction opportunities.

Action Plans

Define measurable objectives and targets, and develop action plans (referred to as performance commitments in EMS guidance) to improve performance in **two** significant environmental aspects. *Note to small organizations: if you meet the criteria for a small organization as defined in the application instructions, you will only develop an action plan for one environmental aspect.*

Communication

Display baseline information about the significant environmental aspect(s) you will be tracking in your action plans in a central location in your facility/organization.

Environmental Legal Requirements

Keep written documentation of your environmental legal requirements at the federal, state, tribal, or local levels, as well as other voluntary commitments. Develop procedures for keeping up with changes to these requirements, integrating the changes into your EMS and achieving and maintaining compliance with them.

Training

Develop a program to train all of your employees about the elements of your EMS and your environmental legal requirements.

Reporting

Report to the Sustainability Division annually on your environmental activities and commitments (using the annual performance report form found at http://www.gasustainability.org/documents/pp_reports.html)

***All Bronze Level EMS Track requirements must be completed within three years or before advancing to the Silver Level.**