



# Gold Level EMS Track Criteria

*As Georgia's exemplary environmental leaders, Gold Partners demonstrate their commitment to continually improving their operations and achieving superior environmental performance. By mentoring their peers, educating their supply chain, and reaching out to their community, these companies are not only helping others understand the importance of sound environmental management but are also minimizing their impact on Georgia's environment.*

## Prerequisites

To join the Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia at the Gold Level, you must have completed all requirements of the Bronze and Silver Levels of the Program. You must have a fully-functioning EMS that includes the following elements:

### Policy & Planning

- ▶ Environmental team established
- ▶ Environmental policy developed and approved
- ▶ Baseline of wastes completed
- ▶ Environmental aspects identified and prioritized for significance
- ▶ Action plans documented for **two** significant aspects (**one** if accepted as a small organization)
- ▶ Baseline/action plan information posted
- ▶ Environmental legal requirements managed
- ▶ Program to train all employees on EMS and requirements in place

### Implementation & Operation

- ▶ Roles, responsibilities, accountability relating to your EMS are defined
- ▶ Procedures in place for the following as they relate to your EMS: training, communicating, managing documents, achieving objectives and targets, incentivizing employee participation, and preparing for emergencies
- ▶ All roles, procedures, training, and programs relating to your EMS are documented

### Checking & Corrective Action

- ▶ Programs in place for assessing performance and preventing and detecting non-conformance with legal and other requirements of the EMS, including compliance audit and EMS audit programs
- ▶ Program in place for prompt, corrective action of any non-conformance with legal requirements and other EMS requirements
- ▶ Activities, processes, and equipment relating to your EMS are measured, monitored and recorded

### Management Review

- ▶ A documented management review of your EMS has been conducted in the past year

### Independent Assessment

- ▶ A documented independent 3rd party assessment of your EMS has been conducted

### Act

- ▶ You have completed one full cycle (plan-do-check-act) for your EMS, including both an EMS and a compliance audit
- ▶ You have achieved and documented results for at least **two** environmental aspects (**one** if accepted as a small organization)

### Community Outreach

- ▶ You have conducted and documented at least one environmental community outreach activity (approved by P<sup>2</sup>AD)

### Supply Chain/EPP Activities

- ▶ You have conducted and documented at least one supply chain/EPP activity (approved by P<sup>2</sup>AD)

# Gold Level EMS Track Criteria

## Commitments

As a Gold Partner, you agree to continually improve your EMS and act as a mentor and environmental leader in Georgia by committing to the following:

### Act

- ▶ Implement your action plans. Reduce the impact for at least **four** environmental aspects (**two** if accepted as a small organization)

### Public Outreach - Communication & Volunteerism

- ▶ Develop procedure to identify and respond to community concerns relating to your operations
- ▶ Implement at least **three** of the following environmental community outreach activities\*:
  - Support/participate in a community waste reduction, reuse, composting, recycling, or cleanup program (e.g., Adopt-a-Stream, Rivers Alive, electronics recycling events, household hazardous waste collection events, see [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org) to find activities in your area)
  - Promote public environmental education activities (e.g., support school programs, make presentations in schools and community meetings, support local Keep America Beautiful affiliates, etc.)
  - Participate on the board of a non-profit environmental organization
  - Other (subject to P<sup>2</sup>AD approval)

### Supply Chain/ EPP Activities

- ▶ Implement at least **two** of the following supply chain or environmentally preferable procurement (EPP) activities\*:
  - Begin or comprehensively expand an EPP purchasing program addressing core business purchases (see [www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/database.htm](http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/database.htm) for resources regarding EPP)
  - Begin or comprehensively expand a pallet return/reuse program with your suppliers/customers
  - Incentivize your suppliers to develop EMSs (e.g., make the implementation of an EMS a factor when evaluating supplier bids for business, or identify an existing supplier that is willing to implement an EMS and assist in that effort)
  - Participate in U.S. EPA's Green Suppliers Network ([www.epa.gov/greensuppliers](http://www.epa.gov/greensuppliers))
  - Participate in U.S. EPA's SmartWay Transit Partnership ([www.epa.gov/otaq/smartway](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/smartway))
  - Improve the efficiency of your vehicle fleet through the purchase of high efficiency vehicles and/or use of alternative fuel vehicles
  - Begin or comprehensively expand an employee commuter assistance program
  - Other (subject to P<sup>2</sup>AD approval)

### Sustainability Activities

- ▶ Implement at least **one** of the following sustainability activities\*:
  - Conduct life cycle analyses for products purchased or manufactured
  - Adopt environmental cost accounting methods ([www.epa.gov/opptintr/acctg/resources.htm](http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/acctg/resources.htm))
  - Participate in established conservation programs (e.g., Wildlife Habitat Council, National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitat Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program)
  - Develop a relationship with/support a community revitalization program (e.g., Habitat for Humanity)
  - Use post-consumer feedstock (e.g., use post-consumer glass bottles to manufacture glass tiles)
  - Develop brownfields (e.g., use industrial sites instead of undeveloped land for new construction)
  - Use green building standards when renovating or constructing new buildings (e.g. LEED™)
  - Other (subject to P<sup>2</sup>AD approval)

### Mentoring Activities

- ▶ Become a mentor to others by completing at least **two** of the following mentoring activities\*:
  - Educate other businesses or organizations about the importance of becoming a Partner and encourage their enrollment
  - Mentor other companies on how to successfully implement Partnership activities or specific pollution prevention practices
  - Encourage suppliers to participate in U.S. EPA's Green Suppliers Network ([www.epa.gov/greensuppliers](http://www.epa.gov/greensuppliers))
  - Offer guided tours of your business to Partners
  - Conduct a third party EMS audit or gap analysis for another Partner
  - Other (subject to P<sup>2</sup>AD approval).

### Reporting

- ▶ Report to P<sup>2</sup>AD annually on your environmental activities and commitments

*\*Note that all commitments should be implemented at a level that is appropriate to your facility/organization's size, operations, setting and environmental impact.*