



SILVER

Silver Partners are on the path to environmental leadership. They have begun implementing an environmental management system (EMS) model of continual improvement to address their environmental impacts in a proactive manner, engaging their community and involving their supply chain.

Prerequisites

Policy & Planning

To join Partnership for a Sustainable Georgia at the Silver Level, you must have completed all Bronze Level program requirements. These include the following planning elements of an EMS:

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

Please refer to the Bronze Level criteria and application instructions for more detail if you are uncertain whether you meet these criteria.

Commitments

Implementation & Operation

Over the next three years* as a Silver Partner, you commit to completing the following elements of an EMS:

- ˆ Establish roles and responsibilities (assigning accountability) for implementation of EMS, including top management and employees
- ˆ Establish procedures for the following: communicating EMS/environmental performance information throughout your organization and with your community; managing EMS documents; operating and maintaining equipment related to your environmental legal requirements and EMS objectives and targets
- ˆ Provide specific training for those who have direct responsibility for achieving environmental legal compliance and the EMS objectives and targets
- ˆ Integrate emergency preparedness and employee incentive programs into your EMS
- ˆ Document the above roles, procedures, training and programs

Checking & Corrective Action

- ˆ Develop programs for assessing performance and preventing and detecting non-conformance with legal and other requirements of the EMS, including an established compliance audit program and an EMS audit program
- ˆ Develop a program for prompt, corrective action of any non-conformance with legal requirements and other EMS requirements
- ˆ Measure and monitor activities and processes and maintain calibration and maintenance records of monitoring equipment

Management Review

- ˆ Conduct and document a management review of the performance and effectiveness of your EMS in meeting your policy commitments

Independent 3rd party assessment

- ˆ Complete and document an independent assessment of your EMS (where the assessor is neither directly employed by you nor has played a substantive role in developing your EMS)

Act

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

Please see the reverse side for additional commitments for Silver Partners, and see the Silver Level Instructions for more detail if you are uncertain whether you meet these criteria.

Silver Level Criteria

Commitments

Public Outreach - Communication & Volunteerism

As a Silver Partner, you also agree to the following commitments to go beyond traditional EMS requirements:

- ` Develop procedure to identify and respond to community concerns relating to your operations
- ` Implement at least **one** of the following environmental community outreach activities*:
 - a) 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 to find activities in your area)
 - b) Promote public environmental education activities (e.g., support school programs, make presentations in schools and community meetings, support local Keep America Beautiful affiliates, etc.)
 - c) Participate on the board of a non-profit environmental organization
 - d) Other (subject to Sustainability Division approval).

Supply Chain/EPP Activities

- ` Implement at least **one** of the following supply chain or environmentally preferable procurement (EPP) activities*:
 - a) Begin or comprehensively expand an EPP purchasing program addressing core business purchases (see www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/database.htm for resources regarding EPP)
 - b) Begin or comprehensively expand a pallet return/reuse program with your suppliers/customers
 - c) 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)
 - d) Participate in U.S. EPA's Green Suppliers Network (www.epa.gov/greensuppliers)
 - e) Participate in U.S. EPA's SmartWay Transit Partnership (www.epa.gov/otaq/smartway)
 - f) Improve the efficiency of your vehicle fleet through the purchase of high efficiency vehicles and/or the use of alternative fuel vehicles
 - g) Other (subject to Sustainability Division approval).

Reporting

- ` Report to 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)

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

All Silver Level requirements must be completed within three years or before advancing to the Gold Level.