

NCCOS	EMS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STANDARD	Date Issued/Revised: 10/19/05; 02/25/08
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EMS 006 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. PURPOSE

To ensure that organizations establish, implement and maintain documented objectives and targets that are measurable, practicable, and consistent with NOAA's environmental policy. To ensure that the organization implements and maintains programs, including responsibilities and timeframes, to manage the achievement of its objectives and targets

2. SCOPE

This procedure applies to NOAA line functions that have implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS).

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 **Objectives and Targets:** The criteria used in the environmental impact assessment process provide the broad areas for high significance (or importance) which should usually be the focus of objectives and targets that drive continual improvement. Overall improvements can be aimed at administrative, technical and operational initiatives. Therefore, objectives and targets can directly aim to improve environmental performance or aim to improve the system itself. In establishing objectives and targets the organization should consider:

- Regulatory requirements (including executive orders) and NOAA Policies
- The concepts articulated in the environmental policy (such as prevention of pollution, compliance with legal and other requirements)
- Technological options
- Financial, operational and business requirements
- Views of interested parties

3.2 **Management Programs/Improvement Plans:** Objective and targets are developed using an Environmental Management Program/Improvement Plan format. The programs and plans provide a robust framework of to meet the objective and target, and should include:

- work plan actions inclusive of responsibilities and time frame,
- means to monitor performance, and
- quantifiable data, whenever possible.

3.3 Objective and targets shall be presented during Management Reviews whereby management can identify priority actions, consider resources and identify budget allocations.

4. FACILITY REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

NOAA NCCOS should take the following steps to implement and maintain an EMS that conforms to NOAA's EMS requirements and E.O.13423.

1. Facility EMS Teams should follow the methodology above to develop objectives, targets and programs.

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<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ems/>