

The EPA and the USGCSA are working on environmental compliance together. That would allow for future legislation to be partially structured from Industry Professionals and not just from politicians. Overall it is a good thing, however, may (to our advantage) accelerate the pace of change to the Industry.

The Clean Water Act (which goes all the way back to 1977) has resulted in the creation of BMP's "Best Management Practices" for the industry. And today, every state has its own BMP's for taking care of a golf course, some more detailed than others, but it is an evolving set of practices.

ISO 14000 "International Organization of Standards" is a family of standards created around 2015 and is related to environmental management that exists to help organizations minimize how their operations negatively affect the environment; comply with applicable laws, regulations, and other environmentally oriented requirements.

The combination of these industry standards, requirements and recommendations has resulted in the necessary formation of the **Environmental Management System "EMS"**. The EMS has 17 steps that relate to establishing policy, implementing and operational control over action plans, documentation, record keeping, audit and review of the results.

BMP's and EMS's need to work together with Industry Professionals and Political leadership in order to succeed. There needs to be a set of Talking Points that cover Industry Information (backed by data), a Commitment Statement (Sustainability & Stewardship) and the creation of a proposed Environmental Plan using terminology that is accepted by the regulatory and political groups who are needed to respond to proposals recommended by industry professionals.



1. Environmental policy.
2. *Environmental aspects and impacts — identify or access environmental issues present at a facility.*
3. Legal and other requirements.
4. Objectives and targets.
5. *Environmental action plans — develop BMPs for each environmental issue.*
6. Structure and responsibility.
7. Training, awareness, and competence.
8. Communication.
9. EMS documentation.
10. Document control.
11. Operational control.
12. Emergency preparedness and response.
13. Monitoring and measurement.
14. Nonconformance and corrective and preventive action.
15. Environmental records.
16. EMS audit.
17. Management review.