P-Glossary

Environmental management system (EMS)

An environmental management system (EMS) is a set of processes and practices which enables an organization to reduce its environmental impacts and increase its operating efficiency. In other words, the EMS is the part of the overall management system that addresses the impact of an organization's activities, products, and services on the environment.

EMS are often based on the plan, do, check, act (PDCA) model. The ISO14000 series of standards are the world's most widely recognized for a systematic approach to environmental management.

See also: ISO14000; PDCA Cycle

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