



The EPA's Commitment to Environmental Management Systems

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proudly pursued its mission to protect human health and the environment for more than 50 years. As EPA Administrator, I strive to reflect our mission in all we do, including how we operate our own facilities and conduct our day-to-day activities. To that end, I am committed to utilizing the Environmental Management System framework to help minimize the EPA's environmental footprint and support the environmental goals of the communities in which we live and work.

EMSs have been established at all the EPA's major facilities across the country for nearly two decades. The systematic approach the EPA's EMSs provide enables the agency to make significant progress in environmental sustainability while also improving operational efficiency and reducing costs. By providing a methodical process that promotes continual improvement, our EMSs allow the agency to not only maintain compliance with regulations, but also lead the way in advancing federal environmental targets and goals.

We must confront the climate crisis through a whole-of government approach and set goals to secure a cleaner, more sustainable future for all Americans. We must set ambitious goals, but I am confident that our EMSs, through the full support of our senior leaders and supervisors, will help us achieve them. The holistic, integrated approach that EMSs promote will allow us to pursue net-zero emissions; conserve energy and water; reduce waste and prevent pollution; promote electronic stewardship; and foster sustainable acquisition and procurement. The operational planning, education and outreach that EMSs provide will help the EPA incorporate environmental justice considerations into all day-to-day operations and facilitate collaboration with state, territorial and local governments, tribes, industry, nongovernmental organizations and other federal agencies.

Through a top-down approach to EMS awareness and training, we will empower our workforce to become better environmental stewards and integrate sustainability into all workplace practices. I call upon our senior officials, supervisors and employees to utilize the EMS framework to set local goals that support agencywide objectives and achieve a cleaner, more sustainable environment. My charge to the EPA is to set an example to restore our role as a leader in environmental sustainability. I expect all levels of the EPA to actively support our EMSs in creating a sustainability-focused workforce that improves the agency's environmental performance. By mobilizing our existing EMSs, the EPA will be better equipped to deliver on our mission, confront the challenges of climate change and create a healthy, sustainable workplace.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael S. Regan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Michael S. Regan
Administrator

NOV - 2 2022

Date