



## Environmental Management System

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a systematic approach to managing an organization's environmental impacts. Here's a basic framework for a green general construction contractor:

### 1. Environmental Policy

- **Commitment:** A clear statement of the organization's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.
- **Objectives:** Specific environmental objectives and targets.
- **Compliance:** Adherence to relevant environmental laws and regulations.

### 2. Planning

- **Environmental Review:** Conduct an initial environmental review to identify significant environmental aspects and impacts.
- **Environmental Objectives and Targets:** Set clear and measurable environmental objectives and targets.
- **Environmental Program:** Develop and implement an environmental program to achieve the objectives.

### 3. Implementation and Operation

- **Training and Awareness:** Train employees on environmental policies, procedures, and responsibilities.
- **Operational Controls:** Implement operational controls to minimize environmental impacts, such as waste reduction, energy efficiency, and pollution prevention.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response:** Develop and implement emergency response plans to minimize environmental damage in case of accidents or incidents.

#### 4. Checking and Corrective Action

- **Monitoring and Measurement:** Monitor key environmental performance indicators, such as energy consumption, water usage, and waste generation.
- **Nonconformity, Corrective, and Preventive Action:** Establish procedures to identify, investigate, and correct nonconformities.
- **Recordkeeping:** Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of environmental performance.

#### 5. Management Review

- **Regular Review:** Conduct periodic reviews of the EMS to assess its effectiveness.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Identify opportunities for improvement and implement corrective actions.

#### Key Elements of a Green General Construction Contractor's EMS:

- **Sustainable Material Selection:** Prioritize the use of recycled, reclaimed, and locally sourced materials.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Implement energy-efficient design strategies and technologies.
- **Water Conservation:** Reduce water consumption through efficient plumbing fixtures and water-saving practices.
- **Waste Minimization:** Minimize waste generation and maximize recycling and reuse.
- **Indoor Air Quality:** Maintain good indoor air quality by using low-VOC materials and proper ventilation.
- **Pollution Prevention:** Prevent pollution by implementing pollution control measures.

By implementing a robust EMS, green general construction contractors can minimize their environmental impact, enhance their reputation, and contribute to a more sustainable future.