

Successful EMS approaches are those that have been implemented by a committed management team.

Experts believe the most successful approaches are those in which management identify their most significant environmental issue and build an EMS to address them.

It is important that the EMS being implemented serve as a framework for energy and water consumption audits and include recommendations that recognise priorities and budgetary constraints.

Water and energy use reduction have been cited as the most important benefits by those who have already implemented such systems.

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Vision

That Jamaica's Natural Resources are used in a sustainable way and that there is broad understanding of environment, planning and development issues, with extensive participation amongst citizens and a high level of compliance to Relevant Legislation

Mission

To promote Sustainable Development by ensuring protection of the environment and orderly development in Jamaica through highly motivated staff performing at the highest standard

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For further information on Environmental Management Systems (EMS) contact:

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Create an Environment,
for Clean Living

National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)



Environmental Management Systems (EMS)



What is an EMS? →
How does it work?

Managing and protecting Jamaica's land, wood and water.

What is an EMS and How does it work?

An **Environmental Management System (EMS)** is a management tool that enables organisations, institutions and businesses to address the impact of their goods and services on the environment.

Environmental Management Systems (EMS) are based on international standards that govern the implementation of environmentally friendly management systems, businesses and institutions.

The basic concept is that better environmental management leads to improved environmental performance

The **International Organisation for Standards (ISO)** has developed the **ISO 14000** series of EMS standards.

Among the series is the **ISO 14001**, a certifiable standard that if followed will bring local organisations in line with many first world nations.

What are the benefits?

The EMS may include emergency and safety procedures; guidelines for environmental legislation and standards/programmes to reduce water usage by introducing more rigorous maintenance schedules.

An EMS may also include ways to recycle office paper; more efficient waste management systems, or plans to phase out or replace certain chemicals or materials.

Some EMS may include ways of cutting the cost of electricity by using energy saving light bulbs and by turning off computers and appliances when not in use. It must, however include clear and precise documentation of production and operational costs.



EMS are used in the Tourism Sector in their efforts to achieving 'green' status.

Who uses EMS?

Many Jamaican hotels have been successful in implementing "green strategies" in order to qualify for Green Globe Certification.

For the most part, their goals have included a reduction in the quantity and size or volume of certain waste, saving water and electricity among others.

One example: if each hotel guest consumes four pats of butter a day, all hotels will dispose of 650 cubic feet of aluminum coated foils a year, enough to fill four trucks. A hotel might decide to provide unpackaged butter pats. Promotion of recycling might reduce the amount even further.

All of these efforts that are part of an EMS will lead to a hotel that puts less stress on its environment.

Some organisations implementing or about to implement EMS strategies include government offices, bauxite companies, the Jamaica Coffee Board, communities like Blue Fields in Westmoreland other agro-processors are also implementing their own strategies.