

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AGENCY POLICY STATEMENT NO. X-2022**

SUBJECT: Agency Environmental Management System

REFERENCE: None

EFFECTIVE DATE: Signature Date

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to reflect the commitment of top management to comply with applicable environmental legal requirements and other requirements, to prevent pollution, and to continually improve DEQ's Environmental Management System.

II. BACKGROUND:

DEQ is implementing an Environmental Management System based on the ISO 14001 standard. The environmental policy is the driver for implementing and improving an organization's environmental management system so that it can maintain and potentially improve its environmental performance. The environmental policy forms the basis upon which the organization sets its objectives and targets. The environmental policy should be sufficiently clear to be able to be understood by internal and external interested parties, and should be periodically reviewed and revised to reflect changing conditions and information.

III. STATEMENT OF POLICY:

Commitments: DEQ, in all of its operations and activities, will consistently demonstrate leadership and stewardship through an Environmental Management System (EMS) that:

- Ensures DEQ's compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, and with other requirements to which the organization subscribes;
- Identifies and implements techniques and environmentally sound practices that emphasize the environmental management hierarchy of pollution prevention (source reduction), reuse, recycling, treatment, and environmentally safe disposal;
- Establishes objectives and targets that are measureable, meaningful and understandable;

- Openly communicates DEQ's Environmental Policy and EMS programs to all employees and the public, and the results of EMS efforts;
- Promotes continual improvement in DEQ's EMS practice and procedures leading to improved environmental performance;
- Provides human, financial and technical resources appropriate to the active management and maintenance of the EMS to the extent practicable; and
- Encourages all employees, to the best of their abilities, to be accountable for implementing, maintaining, and upholding this policy.

Collaboration: DEQ will encourage environmental stewardship and seek opportunities to foster improved environmental collaboration with stakeholders by:

- Communicating mutually beneficial knowledge with, and encouraging open discussions among, all partners including the regulated and non-regulated communities, the general public and environmental associations, regional and national agencies and EMS organizations, DEQ employees, and other State agencies;
- Working closely with the facility management of all leased DEQ facilities to foster open communication and encourage environmental responsibility in keeping with this policy and EMS; and
- Encouraging and recognizing innovative, sustainable environmental ideas and solutions.

Performance: To achieve the goals and objectives of the EMS, and to promote continual improvement, DEQ will develop and implement an environmental management system that includes:

- A direct link to DEQ's strategic planning and budgeting process;
- Appropriate procedures and training; and
- Performance measures and self-assessment through annual program reviews to ensure that they provide effective solutions for the problems that they are designed to prevent or correct.

IV. RECISION:

DEQ Environmental Policy signed by David Paylor on July 1, 2014.



Mike Rolband, Director



Date