

VERMONT BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP

STANDARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER DESIGNATION

Businesses receiving the **ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER** designation must meet **each** of the 3 standards below.

1. Achieve the standards for **ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNER** designation. Each facility designated and recognized as an **ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER** must first achieve **ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNER** status.
2. Develop and implement an Environmental Management Plan that (a) builds on the findings of an environmental assessment; (b) considers the technical and economic feasibility of various strategies; (c) defines waste reduction goals and measures of success; (d) describes an action plan for implementing selected strategies; and (e) creates a system for assessing progress and maintaining compliance with environmental, safety and health regulations.

[Staff of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resource's Environmental Assistance Office and the Vermont Small Business Development Center are prepared to provide free on-site, confidential technical assistance to help you develop a comprehensive environmental management plan and to implement and sustain your Environmental Management System. Please contact either the Environmental Assistance Office by calling 1-800-974-9559 or the Vermont Small Business Development Center by calling 1-800-464-SBDC.]

3. Be in good regulatory standing with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and in compliance with all applicable DEC regulations. Each **Environmental Leader** facility should be a model of regulatory compliance as well as of environmental excellence. Depending on the size and scope of operations at your facility, the following regulations are just a few that may apply to you:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste Management regulations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indirect Discharge Permit regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Pretreatment Discharge Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storm water Discharge Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Underground Storage Tanks (UST) standards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste Management Regulations | |

Regulatory standing can best be evidenced by a report prepared after an environmental compliance review. A non-regulatory compliance assistance specialist is available to conduct an on-site visit to determine regulatory standing and, where there may be non-compliance, to suggest pollution prevention and other strategies that can be used to achieve full compliance. This free and confidential service is available through the Environmental Assistance Office by calling 1-800-974-9559.

Because any assessment or review of environmental compliance provides at best only a snapshot in time, there needs to be a system for maintaining good regulatory standing over time. It is the intent of this Standard to have **Environmental Leaders** conduct and document the findings of a baseline compliance assessment - and to implement as part of their Environmental Management System (EMS) or Environmental Management Plan (EMP), a system for periodically assessing and maintaining compliance with environmental, safety and health regulations.

[Note: The State of Vermont Permit Handbook is available for purchase by calling 241-3589 (\$17 for the handbook, or \$10 for the revisions necessary to update older handbooks). The handbook is also available on-line at: http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/permit_hb/index.htm]