

Environmental Management System (EMS) Policy

In keeping with the mission and eight core values of Polk County, this Environmental Management System (EMS) policy states our commitment to protecting the environment and the health and safety of our employees, clients, and the greater community. Meeting this commitment is a primary management objective and the individual and collective responsibility of all Polk County employees and elected officials. To that end, we shall:

- Reduce environmental impacts of our operations by: conserving natural resources; striving to eliminate waste, emissions and use of hazardous materials; reusing and recycling materials; and responsibly managing energy use.
- Convene a steering committee comprised of representatives of each department, the Board of Supervisors and other elected officials, which shall take responsibility for the creation and implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS). The EMS will identify environmental impacts, and set environmental goals and targets, with the objective of integrating these goals into County programs, services and processes. Progress toward meeting the goals of the EMS shall undergo annual review by the Board of Supervisors.
- Operate beyond compliance with all applicable environmental, health and safety laws and regulations.

This policy affirms our commitment to being leaders in the continuous pursuit of improvement and innovation. Polk County is committed to meeting its existing needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

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