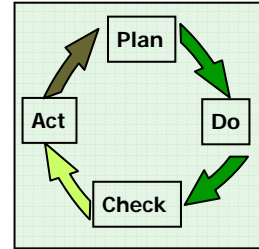


Forest Service Environmental Management System (EMS)

What is an EMS?

An EMS provides a systematic approach for continually improving environmental performance. **In 2008, the Forest Service is focusing on Fleet Management as it relates to reducing fuel consumption.** There are controls already in place to manage the impacts of our fleet on the environment that relate to how we acquire, maintain and operate vehicles to reduce fuel consumption. The EMS simply monitors and documents to ensure that these controls are in place and working as intended, and looks for ways to improve our environmental performance. In the future, the focus of EMS will be expanded to other sustainability goals and land management activities.



EMS involves the entire organization—every employee must know our environmental policy and how their work contributes to its success. Persons working on behalf of the Forest Service (e.g. volunteers, contractors, and permittees) need to be aware of the environmental policy and how their activities contribute to environmental performance.

The EMS is based on the *plan-do-check-act* cycle to establish goals, implement plans to meet the goals, determine progress, and make improvements. The EMS accounts for performance through monitoring, audits and EMS management reviews. Management applies the principles of adaptive management to continually improve our environmental performance.

Environmental Policy

The Environmental Policy is the foundation of an EMS and is the basis for environmental objectives and targets. The Forest Service Environmental Policy (FSM 1331) is:

“The Forest Service is committed to complying with applicable legal and other requirements, pollution prevention, and continual environmental improvement.”

2008 Environmental Objectives and Targets:

- Reduce petroleum based fuel consumption by 2 percent per year.
- Increase use of non-petroleum based fuel by 10 percent per year.

Environmental Aspects – are Forest Service activities, products and services that interact with the environment. We have identified environmental aspects in two categories, one that relates to our internal operations and another that relates to our land management activities.

Operational Controls are practices we apply to help us meet our objective to reduce petroleum fuel consumption.

These include:



- Ride sharing
- Using alternatives to travel such as conference calls and video conferencing
- Using the most fuel efficient vehicle that meets work requirements
- Practicing Eco-driving (see reverse)

Environmental Emergencies Everyone must know to contact dispatch at _____ or 911 if they encounter an undiscovered wildfire or suspected hazardous material release.

This and more information on the Forest Service EMS are on the Intranet at <http://www.fs.fed.us/ems/>

The only official copy of this file is the one on the EMS website. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the most current version by checking the document date on the EMS website.



Eco-Driving



What exactly is eco-driving? Eco-driving is a style of driving that significantly reduces the impact of gasoline on the environment. It does this by reducing fuel consumption and improving the automobile's efficiency.

What are the benefits of eco-driving? By practicing eco-driving you can be a safer driver, reduce exhaust emissions, save fuel, and save yourself some money at the gas pump.

How does Eco-driving work? Eco-driving is classified as a style or type of driving. It works by reducing an automobile's exhaust emissions through the automobile's operation or driving. The United Kingdom plans in the near future to require an eco-driving test to accompany their standard driver's license test. Listed below are a few helpful tips to becoming an eco-driver.

- ✓ **Accelerate and decelerate smoothly.** By accelerating and decelerating smoothly, an automobile is able to make more efficient use of its power. This also means better fuel mileage, which translates into a reduced consumption of fuel.
- ✓ **Avoid excess idling in non-traffic situations.** While sitting at a drive-through or other stopped or parked situation, it is best to shut off an automobile. This will reduce fuel consumption and wear on the automobile's engine.
- ✓ **Observe the posted speed limits.** Drive either at or under the posted limit. The EPA estimates a 10–15 percent improvement in gas mileage by driving 55 mph instead of 65 mph. In addition to saving gas by observing the posted speed limit there is a reduced risk of getting a speeding ticket, as well as a reduced risk of getting in a fatal accident.
- ✓ **Keep tires properly inflated to the recommended pressure.** This alone can reduce the average amount of fuel you use by 3–4 percent.
- ✓ **Maintain a steady speed.** The use of cruise control on the highway is helpful (except in hilly terrain), because it decreases gas pedal activity.
- ✓ **Air conditioning should be used selectively** to reduce the load on your engine.
- ✓ **Remove excess weight.** All unnecessary weight (such as unneeded items in the trunk) makes the engine work harder, consuming more fuel.
- ✓ **Plan and consolidate your trips.** This will enable you to bypass congested routes and will lead to less idling, fewer start-ups, and less stop-and-go traffic.
- ✓ **Share a ride and/or carpool.** This reduces the total number of vehicles in operation. The fewer vehicles in operation at any given time will result in fewer congested roads, less pollution, less gasoline use, and reduced travel time.
- ✓ **Avoid "topping-off"** the gas tank when refueling. Overfilling your gas tank could result in spilled gasoline that contributes to air pollution when it evaporates.
- ✓ **Today's engines** don't need to be warmed up in the winter. Prolonged idling creates excess emissions and wastes fuel.

By following these simple tips you are on your way to saving time, money, and the environment we all live in.

The information in this handout was provided from Forest Service Engineering Manual 7130-2, "Driver Operator Guide"