

Continuous Improvement Definition as approved 10/28/08

Continuous improvement for environmental management systems means an ongoing process by system participants to enhance solid waste management systems by identifying through critical evaluation:

1. existing local conditions,
2. opportunities and corresponding goals for legitimate environmental improvement and protection, and
3. specific steps to achieve those goals.

The acts of implementing the identified steps and measuring their results, then re-evaluating local conditions and establishing new goals and implementation steps are inherent parts of the continuous improvement process.

System participants, rather than regulators or legislators, are responsible for identifying and renewing goals based on the results of their critical evaluation and performance to date. The critical improvement process should result in both goals and performance that exceed status quo expectations and minimum legal requirements.