

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Participate in the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP) Mentoring Program

Are you one of the E4 level top performers? Would you be interested in sharing your experience and expertise with others in the program? Whether formal or informal, facilities have found that there are many benefits that arise from the mentoring relationship. For our top performers, the mentoring program presents an opportunity to share best practices and promote continuous environmental improvement.

Are you thinking about joining VEEP but don't know where to start? Would you like to hear about the benefits of the program from a current member? Are you already a member but desire the benefits of a one-on-one relationship with a top performing member at the E4 level? Are you looking to move up to the E4 level and want help on meeting the criteria? Then think about becoming a VEEP Mentee.

The VEEP Mentoring Program leverages the experience and expertise of our high performing members and allows us to provide greater levels of support to potential applicants, applicants, and current members that would like to benefit from facilities that are farther along in the program and in their environmental stewardship efforts.

At the simplest level, the mentoring program allows a potential member to contact a current member and obtain more information about the program from the perspective of a member, including the benefits and value of VEEP membership.

If you are interested in a more involved level of mentoring, another mentoring relationship is when a current member forms a long term relationship with a potential member. This level of mentoring is appropriate for potential members that would like to join VEEP and would like assistance with determining whether their facility meets the requirements of the program, with implementing changes to enable their facility to qualify for the program, and in determining performance commitments. This level of mentoring may also include the current member guiding the applicant through the application process. Potential members will benefit from one-on-one assistance from their mentors as well as having the opportunity to learn best practices from environmental leaders in the program.

The highest level of VEEP mentoring consists of member-to-member mentoring. This aspect of the program was created to facilitate shared learning and networking among the members. Member-to-member mentoring allows a facility currently in the program to improve its environmental program by working with another facility in a specific area of interest. Through the sharing of best practices, member-to-member mentoring provides opportunities for continuous environmental improvement. E4 members are expected to make themselves available to E2 members that may benefit from their experience and expertise.

Current members become mentors on a volunteer basis. Facilities are matched based on the size, industry sector, location, and other factors that the mentee may deem relevant. VEEP encourages feedback from both mentors and mentees on the program once the mentoring relationship has been established.

Examples of Mentoring

- E4 facility assisted a local high school in developing their E2 application.
- An E4 facility led a regional effort convene a network of facilities with EMSs.
-



For more information:
Sharon Baxter
Sharon.baxter@deq.virginia.gov
(804) 698-4344

Visit www.deq.virginia.gov/veep