

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Indiana CLEAN Community Challenge

Creating Your Quality of Life Plan

I. Definitions

Continual Improvement: Process of enhancing a quality of life plan to achieve improvements in overall environmental performance in line with the community's mission statement.

- Develop mission statement or policy into a quality of life plan;
- Identify environmental aspects and impacts, and set goals;
- Implement programs and activities to reduce negative impacts and attain goals;
- Audit activities to ensure they are producing positive results and are decreasing the negative impacts to attain set goals;
- Make changes to the quality of life plan and projects so that new goals are continually set and achieved, therefore resulting in continual improvement.

Environment: Surroundings in which a community operates, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans, and their interrelation.

Environmental Aspect: Element of a community's activities or services that can interact with the environment.

Environmental Goal: A general statement of a desired outcome to be achieved through the community's quality of life plan activities.

Environmental Impact: Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from a community's activities or services.

Environmental Management System (EMS): An organizational approach to environmental management that incorporates a continual cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing, and improving the actions that an organization takes to meet its environmental obligations.

Environmental Objective: Overall environmental goal, arising from the mission statement, that a community sets itself to achieve, and which is quantified where practicable.

Environmental Performance: Measurable results of the quality of life plan, related to a community's control of its environmental aspects, based on its mission statement, objectives and targets.

Environmental Target: Detailed environmental performance requirement, quantified where practicable, applicable to the community or parts thereof, that arises from the environmental objectives and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives.

Mission Statement: A documented statement of the community's commitment to compliance with requirements and voluntary commitments; pollution prevention; continuous environmental

improvement; and continual sharing of environmental decisions and performance information with the community. It is the heart of the quality of life plan and the framework for planning and action undertaken through the Plan.

Pollution Prevention: The development, implementation, and evaluation of efforts to avoid, eliminate, or reduce pollution at the source. Any activity that reduces or eliminates pollutants prior to recycling, treatment, control, or disposal.

Quality of Life Plan: Written documentation of a community's adherence to their mission statement; pollution prevention; environmental goals; community and business outreach; implementation and operational procedures; and monitoring and progress review of their continued improvement.

Stakeholder Group: A cross-functional team made up of individuals within the community that helps to facilitate quality of life plan implementation (also called an Environmental Team).

Stakeholder Group Leader: The clearly identified individual within the stakeholder group who has the responsibility and management authority for implementing the quality of life plan from start to finish (also called an Environmental Team Representative).
