



Organizations and businesses are invited to join our free Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program (VESP) in an effort to collaborate on environmental quality issues and support our mission- to protect and enhance public health, welfare, and the environment in Arizona.

FIND OUT MORE AT
www.azdeq.gov/vesp.html

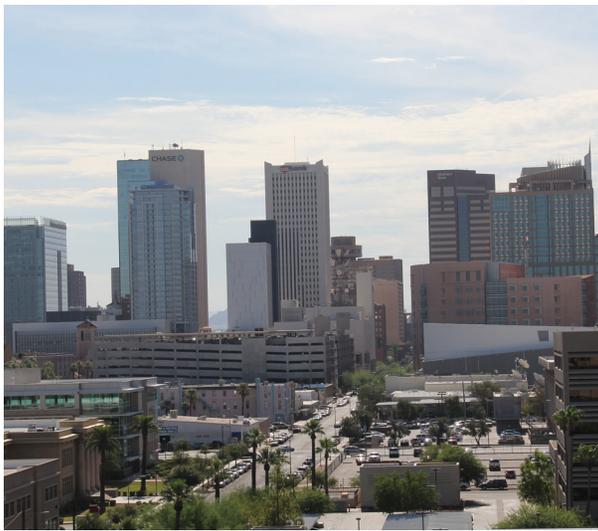
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Publication Number: C-14-33





The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program recognizes and awards incentives to Arizona businesses and other organizations with a good history of environmental compliance and that strive to go beyond what is legally required to protect public health and the environment. Participants in the program access tools and strategies that support their existing environmental programs while furthering opportunities to reduce cost and spur innovation.

Why Should You Join?

Numerous incentives are available to organizations participating in ADEQ's Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program:

- ADEQ's public recognition of your organization's stewardship commitment
- Reduced inspection frequency
- Coordination of multiple on-site inspections
- Reduced reporting requirements
- Advance notification of inspections and enforcement rulings

CATEGORIES OF RECOGNITION



Copper Level

One-time recognition issued annually for partnerships and collaborations, or for regulated facilities that have completed an environmental project that resulted in measurable environmental improvement.



Bronze Level

Three-year recognition available to regulated facilities with no environmental violations on record with any environmental regulatory agency within the past three years. Recipients must maintain this compliance record while a member of the program.



Silver Level

Three-year recognition available to any facility* or organization that has made measurable environmental improvement in at least one area that ADEQ has designated for continuous improvement and commits to measure continuous improvement while a member of the Program.



Gold Level

Three-year recognition available to any facility* or organization that has met the Silver Recognition standard and commits to develop and maintain an Environmental Management System (EMS) within three years of membership in the Program.



Platinum Level

Three-year recognition available to any facility* or organization that has met the Gold Recognition standard and has a functioning EMS with at least one fully completed, audited EMS cycle and commits to community outreach.

**Regulated facilities cannot have any open enforcement actions at the time of application for membership in the Program. ADEQ will recognize regulated facilities with no violations on record with any environmental regulatory agency within three years with a "Superior Compliance History" designation. This designation will be forfeited upon discovery of an environmental violation while a member of the Program.*

AREAS FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

As part of the application, facilities need to demonstrate past environmental achievement and commit to continued improvement in their environmental performance. Past achievements and future commitments must be selected from the following list of environmental indicators:

Upstream

- Material Procurement
- Suppliers' Environmental Performance

Input

- Material Use
- Water Conservation
- Energy Conservation
- Land Use

Non-Product Output

- Air Emissions
- Discharges to Water
- Waste Generation/Management
- Noise
- Vibration

Downstream

- Products
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle or Repurpose

The applicant has the choice of continuing to measure achievements for the same environmental indicator in subsequent years or select a new or additional environmental indicator to measure.

