

## What is it?

An Environmental Management System (EMS) provides a clearly defined and structured approach to managing environmental performance. The *Hardrock Mining and Beneficiation Environmental Management System Guide* was developed by environmental professionals who are members of the National Mining Association (NMA) and the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) to assist hardrock mining companies in developing and implementing environmental management systems.

The EMS guide follows a “plan-do-check-act” continual improvement process for managing environmental performance. Specifically, it describes a process for implementing an EMS, highlights typical environmental aspects and potential impacts for hardrock mining and beneficiation operations that may be addressed in a company’s EMS, and provides specific tools and examples to assist a company with implementation.



## Hardrock Mining and Beneficiation Environmental Management System Guide



## Who will benefit?

All operations are likely to benefit, even if they already have an EMS in place. The guide is specifically designed for small to medium-sized operators and employees of the hardrock mining sector who have decided to implement an EMS for their facility or company. The guide will help them get started and to avoid common pitfalls and unnecessary costs.

## What is the objective?

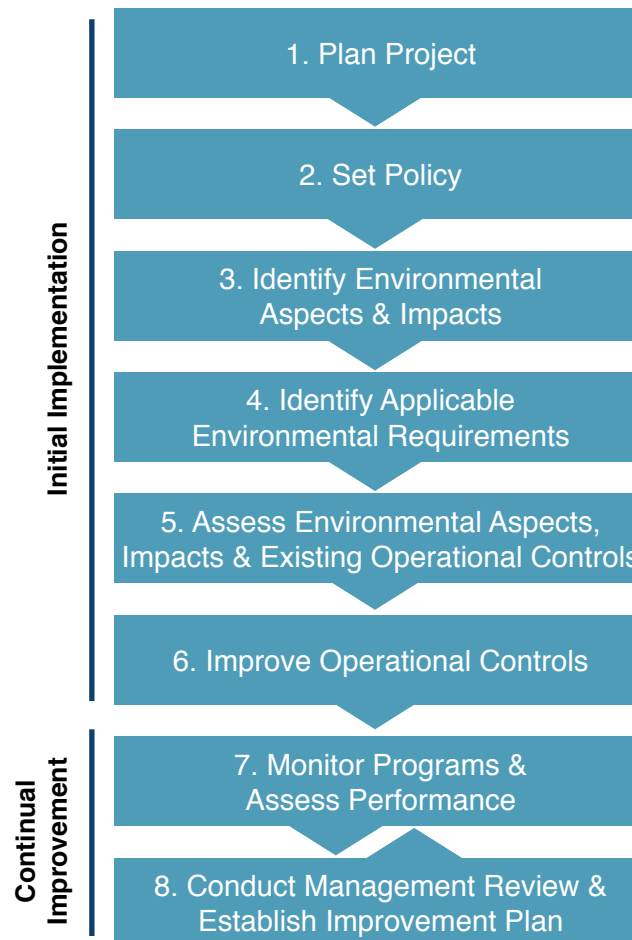
The EMS shares goals of most environmental management systems:

- Delivering reliable regulatory compliance
- Reducing adverse impacts to the environment
- Improving environmental stewardship
- Continually improving environmental performance

Operations may also find an EMS reduces costs and risks, while improving reputation and access to markets.

## What is covered in the EMS Guide?

The Guide includes eight steps covering initial implementation through continual improvement. Examples, tools and other supporting materials are provided for each step. For operations interested in pursuing ISO 14001 EMS, information is provided about third-party certification and other requirements. The eight steps include:



## Where can I get more information?

The *Hardrock Mining and Beneficiation Environmental Management System (EMS) Guide* is a free publication and is available from NMA.

**Find it at: [www.nma.org/pdf/HardrockEMSGuide.pdf](http://www.nma.org/pdf/HardrockEMSGuide.pdf).**

