

Regional Environmental Management Systems Partnerships

Regional Environmental Management Systems (REMS) Partnerships

Regional Environmental Management Systems (REMS) partnerships take the EMS framework one step further by moving it from individual facility fence lines and applying it to an entire region. REMS partnerships engage the environmental stewardship efforts of a community of public and private organizations to improve communication between them, allow for environmental management Best Practices sharing, and facilitate the targeting of measurable regional environmental priorities. In particular, REMS partnerships can be a crucial tool for DoD facilities that seek positive relationships with regional stakeholders, local communities, and regulators as they achieve environmental targets.

The Virginia-Regional Environmental Management System (V-REMS)

Augusta County • Chesterfield County • City of Charlottesville • City of Hopewell • City of Portsmouth • City of Richmond • Crater Planning District • Defense Supply Center Richmond • Dupont • EPA Region 3 • Fort A.P. Hill • Fort Lee • Fort Eustis • GETF • Henrico County • Honda • Honeywell • Hopewell County School Bus District • Hopewell Wastewater Treatment Facility • Quantico Marine Corps Base • Richmond Regional Planning District Commission • Richmond County School Bus District • Ridefinders • Tysons • Ukrops Supermarkets • US Army • US Navy • VA Army National Guard • VA DEQ • VA DGS • Virginia Tech

The first REMS partnership in the nation, the Virginia Regional Environmental Management System (V-REMS), began in the Richmond, Virginia area in March 2003. Originally sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the Defense Supply Center Richmond (DSCR) continues to find value in the program and has provided ongoing support to continue moving the program forward.



The REMS Process and its Benefits as Seen with V-REMS:

Phase I: Formation, Communication, and EMS Best Practices Sharing

- Improved communication channels lead to trust-building between partners; eliminated negative public perceptions about DSCR's environmental impact through improved stakeholder relationships.
- Positive press and awards for DSCR after partnership formation; DSCR received the Chesapeake "Business for the Bay" Award for its EMS and leadership of V-REMS.
- Best Practices sharing and leveraged resources across the Richmond region led to stronger environmental management for each partner as they shared tools, techniques, and innovative approaches environmental stewardship.
- Partners' environmental improvements lead to quantifiably cleaner air, water, and waste streams:

Example: *The City of Richmond has improved water quality by replacing two underground storage tanks with above ground tanks, installing two oil/water separators to catch run-off from its vehicle maintenance shop floor, and switching to an environmentally friendly parts washer.*

Phase II (began December, 2004): Collective Targeting of Regional Environmental Priorities

- Partnership agrees to collectively reduce and measure ozone emissions through targeting of emissions from vehicles, grounds maintenance, and paints due to potential regional eight-hour ozone non-attainment pressure.

Example 1: *The DSCR improved air quality and reduced VOC emissions by purchasing 12 electric vehicles and using non-VOC paints.*

Example 2: *V-REMS partners reduced transportation related air pollution by working with the Richmond area RideFinders program to promote car-pooling and public-transportation.*

- Measurable environmental performance indicators are emphasized for all REMS environmental priorities. Other potential V-REMS environmental priorities include water quality and waste streams.

Keys to REMS Success

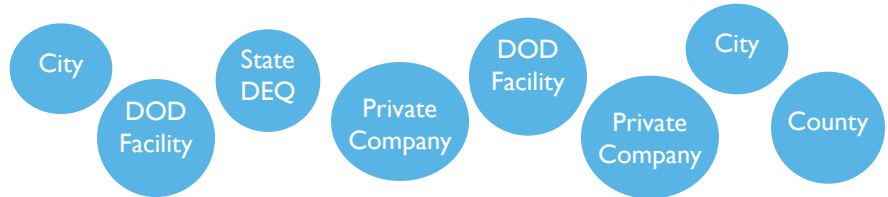
- Measurable performance indicators for key environmental priorities.
- A common language to address environmental management issues.
- Willingness to try innovative approaches, share data/information, and enlist new partners.
- Ongoing involvement and cooperation with the state regulatory agency.
- Regular and frequent communication through monthly phone calls, quarterly meetings, and the Virtual Private Office (password protected intranet site for information sharing).
- Support of senior management from partner organizations, and recognition, awards, and clear benefits for individual partners.

REMS Process & Benefits

Separate Environmental Management Efforts

Benefits:

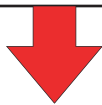
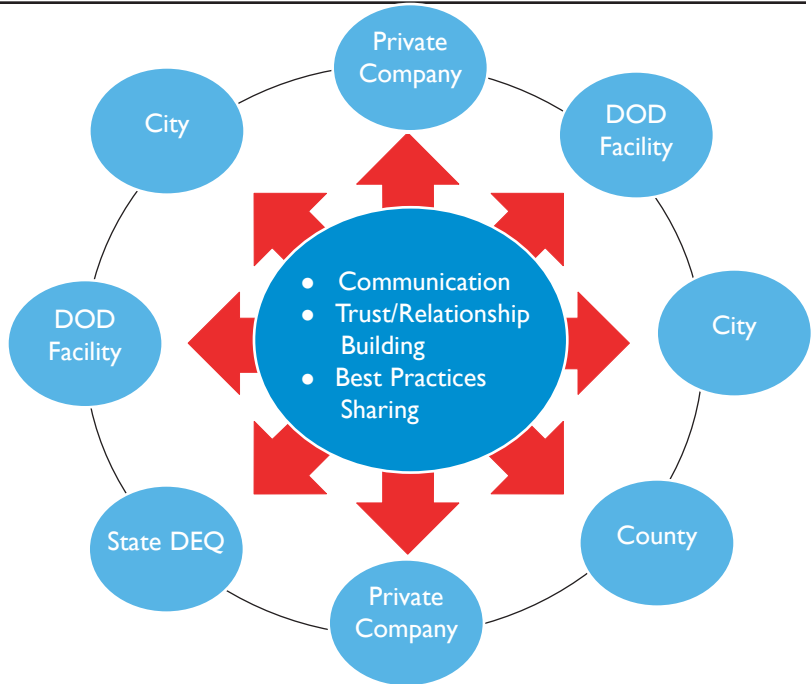
- Individual benefits of each partner's environmental management efforts but no coordination between entities



REMS Phase I

Benefits:

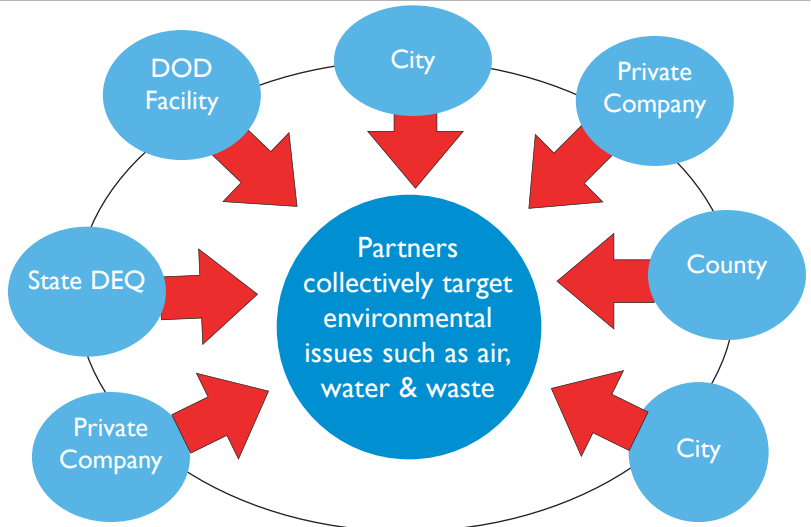
- Improved environmental management for each partner as a result of Best Practices sharing
- Enhanced relationship with state regulators
- Improved relationship and trust among REMS partners
- Increased measurable environmental performance
- Added public perceptions about partners' environmental performance



REMS Phase II

Benefits:

- Continued Phase I benefits
- Measurable commitments to environmental improvement -specific environmental priorities targeted



For more information on V-REMS benefits and environmental performance improvements see "Benefits of V-REMS" and the Final V-REMS I Report at www.peercenter.net.

Program Sponsors
 U.S. Department of Defense
 Defense Supply Center Richmond
 White House Council on
 Environmental Quality

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