



enHance Program Guide



The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Envision Heightened Awareness Nurturing Conservation & Environmental Excellence (enHance) program is a voluntary initiative to recognize an organization's leadership and contribution to the enhancement of the state's environment, natural resources and community well-being. Existing enHance members and new members accepted into the program are committed environmental leaders implementing measures that reduce waste, conserve resources and provide continuous environmental enhancement.

Eligible entities include regulated and non-regulated businesses, industries, governmental agencies, municipalities, schools, associations, community groups, and other similar organizations.

Membership Tiers

As regulated applicants enter the program, they will have access to three levels of membership:

Associate Level

- The entry tier of membership. Facility makes their initial commitment to improving
- environmental performance, develop their implementation plan and completes their first environmental improvement project.

Steward Level

- The intermediate tier of membership.
- Facility has made progress in their stewardship efforts and has completed their second environmental improvement project.

Leader Level

- The highest of the program's membership tiers.

- Facility has demonstrated a superior record of environmental compliance and improvement.
- Stewards can become leaders by implementing a community service project or serving as a mentor for other facilities in the program.
- Facility has agreed to follow stricter compliance guidelines by utilizing an Environmental Management System and operating under the ISO 14001 certification (ISO Cert.). An ISO Cert. enhances the facility's green credentials and is designed to ultimately reduce the number of safety incidents which improves production costs and boosts the company image.

Environmental Star

- This tier is open to non-regulated businesses, schools, associations, community groups, and other similar organizations. Non-regulated refers to entities that do not hold environmental permits issued by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Permit Board or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Applications are accepted annually from July 1st to November 30th, or later. Enhance applicants must download the [membership application form](#), fill it out, save it to their device and submit it to the MDEQ website. Municipalities have a specific [membership application form](#). Environmental Star also has a specific [membership application form](#). Application instructions for each application track can be found at <https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/land/waste-division/enhance/membership/>.

Tier Checklist

Associate Level

- ☐ Sign environmental policy
- ☐ Upon acceptance, members must agree to submit an annual report by July 31st each year of membership
- ☐ Complete Environmental Management Plan outlining current and continuing environmental improvement actions (Municipalities complete an Environmental Management Best Practices Template in lieu of Plan)
- ☐ Complete one active or completed voluntary project with quantifiable results showing that the project has enhanced the environment
- ☐ Share voluntary project information on MDEQ's website/newsletter articles or other venues

- ☐ Demonstrate a history of meeting compliance requirements with no previous judgement or conviction for a criminal violation. Must have no unresolved Notice of Violations (NOV's) or be out of compliance with any Agreed Order
- ☐ Conduct self-audit
- ☐ Submit annual report

Steward Level

- ☐ Has met Associate requirements
- ☐ Complete second active or completed voluntary project with quantifiable results showing that the project enhances the environment

Leader Level

- ☐ Has met Associate/Steward requirements
- ☐ Complete one community outreach project or serve as a program mentor
- ☐ Implement an Environmental Management System (or equivalent system) and ISO 14001 Certification
- ☐ Conduct an independent audit by a qualified assessor
- ☐ No more than one NOV over a three-year span
- ☐ No fines from the MDEQ or EPA over a three-year span

Environmental Star

- ☐ Minimum of 50 employees
- ☐ Minimum 20,000 square feet of building space
- ☐ Sign environmental policy
- ☐ Conduct self-audit
- ☐ Complete Environmental Management Plan addressing all environmental aspects
- ☐ Complete two active voluntary environmental enhancement projects
- ☐ Submit annual report

EPL Advisors LLC was selected through a competitive Request for Qualifications process to provide professional engineering and technical support services including administrative, logistical, information transfer, and operational support for the MDEQ Pollution Prevention ("P2") Program and the Envision Heightened Awareness Nurturing Conservation & Environmental Excellence ("enHance") Voluntary Stewardship Program.