

BARTOW COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (E.M.S.)

First County-wide E.M.S. in the Nation

An Environmental Management System (E.M.S.) is a set of problem identification and problem-solving tools that can be used by individual local governments, businesses, and industries to reduce the environmental impact and improve operational efficiencies.



Bartow County has established the first county-wide E.M.S. in the nation. The catalyst for this collaborative is Bartow County Sole-Commissioner Clarence Brown, who is a special advisor by appointment to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee. The Committee provides EPA Administrator Michael Leavitt with advice and recommendations to help build partnerships with local governments to better protect the nation's environment. Brown implemented his EMS concept with the help of leaders of the Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce, EPA, Georgia EPD and others. Together they established a pilot program in Bartow County that is the first in the nation.

Several of the industries listed in this publication, including Georgia Power and Shaw Industries, Inc., are investing more than new capital, they are investing in the environment of Bartow County. Each partner participates on a voluntary basis, putting a plan in place that makes sense in their organization. One such example is Sod Atlanta, a local sod farm with locations in Taylorsville and on Ga. Highway 113 in Cartersville. Sod Atlanta was chosen as one of the farms in Georgia to use biodiesel fuel in its tractors as part of a study to find cleaner, more environmentally friendly fuel alternatives. Other partners include Anheuser-Busch, SharpTop Trees, Cartersville Medical Center, the City of Cartersville School System, Cartersville-Bartow County Chamber of Commerce, and several Bartow County government departments.

Goals of the EMS include:

1. Improving the county's quality of life and business climate by reducing air emissions
2. Minimizing the production of solid waste and hazardous waste
3. Improving the management of solid waste and water resources.

Beyond the environmental considerations, the EMS is expected to bring cost reductions and efficiency improvements to both industry and government. A key goal is to reduce air emissions by 25 percent over 2004 levels.

The EMS development process is being led by Georgia Tech's Economic Development Institute (EDI) with assistance from EPA, Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division (P2AD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE).