



# Fact Sheet

## Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS)

Companies that aspire to be better environmental stewards typically invest in strong Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) management. From an environmental standpoint, this involves creating a systematic approach for managing waste, complying with federal environmental regulations and implementing sustainability initiatives. Strong EHS programs also include measures to address ergonomics, air quality and other aspects of the work environment that could affect the health and well-being of employees.

The corporate EHS profession began in the 1970s following the creation of the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection. Today, EHS managers are the environmental leaders of the corporate world, advocating for strategic environmental policies, including corporate sustainability. Engineers or scientists by training, they bring a highly specialized skill set to their work, marrying technical expertise with the management skills they need to translate sustainability from policy into practice. Indeed, a survey of NAEM members in 2009 found that the majority of corporate sustainability initiatives – such as water conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions – were either being led by, or conducted with cooperation from, the EHS manager.

NAEM, the Premier Association for EHS Management, is a community for these corporate Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS), and Sustainability decision-makers. Founded in 1990, NAEM's membership has grown to include senior environmental management leaders from more than 800 companies, including representation from the majority of the Fortune 500.

### **ABOUT NAEM**

NAEM is a professional association that empowers corporate leaders to advance environmental stewardship, create safe and healthy workplaces and promote global sustainability. As the largest community for Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS), and Sustainability decision-makers, we provide peer-led educational conferences and an active network for sharing solutions to today's corporate EHS and Sustainability management challenges. Visit NAEM online at <http://www.naem.org>.

### **CONTACT**

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