

News



from the Alexandria Sanitation Authority

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ALEXANDRIA SANITATION AUTHORITY RECOGNIZED BY COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOR PROGRESS IN VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The Virginia [Department of Environmental Quality \(DEQ\)](#) reviewed and approved the Alexandria Sanitation Authority's [Virginia Environmental Excellence Program](#) Annual Report. The report describes [ASA's Environmental Management System's](#) pollution prevention plan results from 2009.

The Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP) is a voluntary Commonwealth initiative designed to assist companies in managing their impact on the environment. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Office of Pollution Prevention promotes the use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) as a method of achieving long-term environmental improvement, hopefully by means of source reduction.

ASA strives to strengthen and enhance its EMS. In 2009, it reported no compliance issues affecting the facility – the equivalent of an A+ in an environmental report card. In addition, ASA reported to the Virginia DEQ that it achieved several targets in minimizing environmental impacts. They included:

- Improving its disposal of oily rags and aerosol cans, and reductions in lab wastes. Laboratory wastes were reduced by approximately 20%.
- Recycling over 10 tons of material, including glass, aluminum, and paper products.
- Participating in local public outreach activities, including [Alexandria Earth Day](#) and Earth Force. At these events, staff provided information on properly disposing fats, oils and greases, and other household waste that can pollute the Chesapeake watershed.
- Holding dozens of tours of its facilities for students and young people from schools in the region, teaching them how ASA cleans wastewater and how important sustainability is to the region. A dozen teens and young adults toured ASA and later built a water filtration and irrigation system for the [Green Roof](#) at [T.C. Williams High School](#) as part of the [Alexandria Seaport Foundations](#) Green Awareness program.

As an Exemplary Environmental Enterprise member to the VEEP program, ASA joins dozens of organizations in Virginia that work every day to reduce their impact on the region's environment. Other VEEP members include the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Department of Corrections, and the Paxton Companies, as well as many other wastewater treatment facilities.

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