

# Statement of Environmental Principles

*As stewards of metro Louisville* and of all its resources, we understand the interdependence of humans and the environment. We must apply thoughtful and creative planning to achieve a thriving economy built on the principles of sustainability. We must foster conservation, pollution prevention, and restoration of ecosystems with both public policy and personal behavior. We must promote a common agenda for Louisville as a green city, preserve and enhance the quality of life for our citizens and future generations, and widen recognition of the importance of good stewardship of the community's natural resources.

## • *Leadership Commitment and Measures*

We will implement these principles by demonstrating community leadership and collaborative planning and by adopting best environmental practices. We will establish goals, objectives, and indicators; conduct an annual self-evaluation of our progress; and jointly issue a public report.

## • *Sustainable Use and Protection of Natural Resources*

We value and conserve natural resources and will seek to preserve and make sustainable use of our air, water, soil, and forests. We will protect and conserve nonrenewable natural resources through efficient use, careful planning, and collaborative land-management programs. We will reduce the use of substances that may cause environmental damage to the air, water, earth, and its inhabitants. We will safeguard all habitats affected by our facilities and operations, especially the public lands we manage, while promoting biological diversity. We will conserve open spaces through comprehensive planning.

## • *Land and Water Management*

We will promote natural areas for biological diversity, protect areas along streams and water bodies, and plant native species. We will enhance, enlarge, and protect our urban forests. We will practice responsible water use.

## • *Reduction and Disposal of Waste*

We will combine resources to reduce or eliminate waste through source reduction, reuse, and recycling in our own facilities and operations and for the metro area in general. We will handle and dispose of all waste using safe and responsible methods.

## • *Energy Use*

We will conserve energy and improve the energy efficiency of our buildings, vehicles, and equipment and of the goods and services we use. We will use environmentally safe and sustainable energy sources, while achieving savings. We will increase our use of energy from renewable sources.

## • *Transportation*

We will build and redevelop our community to minimize transportation demands, while providing pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly pathways and an effective public transit system. We will work to reduce vehicle miles traveled in the community, while implementing the vision of our organizations using energy-efficient vehicles.

## • *Purchasing Products and Services*

We will pool our knowledge and resources to jointly purchase green products and services. We will work with our suppliers to adopt sustainable approaches and solutions. We will partner to create a stronger market for environmentally friendly and regionally produced products and services.

## • *Design and Management of the Built Environment*

We will design, build, restore, and manage our facilities and neighborhoods in ways that promote and protect health and safety. We will use school campuses, partners' buildings, and lands as settings for learning.

## • *Public Health*

We will monitor our policies and practices to assess and reduce public health risk. When potential risks are identified, we will identify and implement solutions.

## • *Environmental Education*

Through environmental education, we are committed to developing and supporting environmentally literate citizens. We will involve colleagues, students, and citizens in demonstrating the ability to implement these principles.

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## Partnership for a Green City



Adopted:  
December 5, 2005



Adopted:  
December 15, 2005



Adopted:  
December 20, 2012



Adopted:  
January 8, 2006