

Mission & Policy Statements Examples

All E2 applications must include an environmental policy statement, outlining the facility's commitment to the environment. When reviewing each application, DEQ staff will look for an environmental policy statement that:

- Includes/stresses compliance, pollution prevention, training, communication & continuous improvement
- Addresses elements that are supported by EMS activities

Below are several example policy statements.

Example 1:

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to reflect the commitment of top management to comply with applicable environmental legal requirements and other requirements, to prevent pollution, and to continually improve DEQ's Environmental Management System.

II. BACKGROUND:

DEQ is implementing an Environmental Management System based on the ISO 14001 standard. The environmental policy is the driver for implementing and improving an organization's environmental management system so that it can maintain and potentially improve its environmental performance. The environmental policy forms the basis upon which the organization sets its objectives and targets. The environmental policy should be sufficiently clear to be able to be understood by internal and external interested parties, and should be periodically reviewed and revised to reflect changing conditions and information.

III. STATEMENT OF POLICY:

Commitments: DEQ, in all of its operations and activities, will consistently demonstrate leadership and stewardship through an Environmental Management System (EMS) that:

- Ensures DEQ's compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, and with other requirements to which the organization subscribes;
- Identifies and implements techniques and environmentally sound practices that emphasize the environmental management hierarchy of pollution prevention (source reduction), reuse, recycling, treatment, and environmentally safe disposal;
- Establishes objectives and targets that are measureable, meaningful and understandable;
- Openly communicates DEQ's Environmental Policy and EMS programs to all employees and the public, and the results of EMS efforts;
- Promotes continual improvement in DEQ's EMS practice and procedures leading to improved environmental performance;
- Provides human, financial and technical resources appropriate to the active management and maintenance of the EMS to the extent practicable; and
- Encourages all employees, to the best of their abilities, to be accountable for implementing, maintaining, and upholding this policy.

Collaboration: DEQ will encourage environmental stewardship and seek opportunities to foster improved environmental collaboration with stakeholders by:

- Communicating mutually beneficial knowledge with, and encouraging open discussions among, all partners including the regulated and non-regulated communities, the general public and environmental associations, regional and national agencies and EMS organizations, DEQ employees, and other State agencies;
- Working closely with the facility management of all leased DEQ facilities to foster open communication and encourage environmental responsibility in keeping with this policy and EMS; and
- Encouraging and recognizing innovative, sustainable environmental ideas and solutions.

Performance: To achieve the goals and objectives of the EMS, and to promote continual improvement, DEQ will develop and implement an environmental management system that includes:

- A direct link to DEQ's strategic planning and budgeting process;
- Appropriate procedures and training; and
- Performance measures and self-assessment through annual program reviews to ensure that they provide effective solutions for the problems that they are designed to prevent or correct.

Example 2:

Reason for Policy:

To ensure that all XXX facilities are in compliance with all applicable State and Federal environmental regulations in order to reduce the possibility of regulatory citations and fines. To minimize XXX's impacts on the local environment by reducing pollution output, waste generated and electricity used.

Policy Statement:

XXX will conduct all operations in an environmental responsible manner and comply with all applicable State and Federal environmental regulations.

Environmental Initiatives:

XXX will:

- Meet and exceed (where practical) compliance with all State and Federal environmental regulations.
- Prevent and reduce pollution on XXX property and prevent XXX activities from polluting the local environment.
- Minimize to the greatest extent practicable the use of toxic substances on XXX property and seek alternatives to such products where available. Where the use of toxic substances cannot be avoided, the substances will be managed to avoid human exposure and releases to the environment.
- Encourage continued participation recycling and waste reduction programs.
- Conduct education and research in an environmentally responsible way.
- Continually strive to reduce XXX's impact on the natural environment.
- Strive to decrease energy demands through increased energy efficiency and conservation.
- Where practical, utilize best management practices in design, construction and maintenance of its facilities.

Example 3:

Environmental Policy:

XXX, in its operations and activities, will demonstrate leadership and environmental stewardship through its participation in Virginia's Environmental Excellence Program

XXX will comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulations

XXX will identify and implement practices that emphasize the environmental management hierarchy of pollution prevention (source reduction, reuse, recycling, treatment and safe disposal)

XXX will continue to improve its practices and procedures in order to achieve improved environmental performance

XXX will openly communicate to all employees and the public its identified environmental impacts, objectives and the programs to achieve them as well as the results of these efforts

XXX will devote resources to the management and achievement of its environmental objectives

XXX will encourage all employees to implement, maintain and uphold this policy

Partnerships:

XXX will encourage environmental stewardship and foster collaboration by exchanging information and encouraging open communication with state, local and federal agencies, regulated and non-regulated communities, the general public and XXX employees.

Performance:

To achieve the goals and objectives of the Environmental Excellence program, XXX will incorporate the principles and commitments of the program into XXX's strategic planning and budgeting process, training for employees and measures necessary to determine results.

Example 4:

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of XXX to ensure that patients, staff and visitors have a clean, safe, hazard free and environmentally efficient hospital campus at which to work, visit, or reside while a patient in our care.

About the Facilities:

The campus is composed of 732 acres deeded to the Commonwealth of Virginia. There are 43 buildings on the campus. Approximately 40% of the acreage is maintained as forestland and 20% as pasture; the remaining acres support the operational aspect of the hospital mission.

Policy Statement:

In keeping with this mission and responsibilities, XXX's should use its organizational strengths to help advance State and Federal environmental policies. By working with environmental agencies and groups to enhance the environment as part of our normal work, XXX is acting in the spirit of environmental law, the wishes and needs of our customers and the values we hold as public servants.

Thus, it is the policy and practice of XXX to:

Plan, design, construct and maintain facilities that meet customer needs while proactively protecting, conserving, restoring and enhancing important natural and man-made resources.

Seek opportunities to cooperative advance Federal, State and local environmental policies, programs and objectives through close and systematic coordination with the public, concerned agencies and groups.

Demonstrate leadership by setting the example and being a role model in development and implementation of improved methods for environmental protection and enhancement.

Employ safe and appropriate measures to ensure that project designs reflect community values as understood through proactive outreach with agency stakeholders.

Take every opportunity to recycle products and byproducts of our processes and care delivery system, as well as the natural products of the land we have stewardship over.

Protect the environment by continuous vigilance in monitoring, controlling and managing efficient operations that limit waste streams by volume; recover, reuse or recycle wastes to the degree the Code of Virginia, local vendors, reclamation centers and other venues provide this agency with viable options for placement of waste and/or byproducts.

Maximize our energy efficiencies by participation in Executive Order 54, complete campus analysis by the ESCO and eventual partnership in contracting for those modifications that meet the spirit of the Executive Order and can be implemented at this facility.

Example 5:

EPA Region 3

It is the policy of EPA's Philadelphia regional office to manage our organization and programs in a manner that protects the environment, the safety of our employees, and public health. In support of this policy, our office will:

- o Comply fully with all Federal, State and local environmental laws and regulations, including Executive Orders.
- o Consider environmental impacts when making planning, purchasing, and operating decisions.

- o Work continuously to improve the effectiveness of our environmental management programs.
- o Provide training to educate our employees and others working in the regional office space to be environmentally responsible on the job.
- o Establish environmental objectives and targets for performance, and conduct regular internal evaluations to determine progress. Utilize all available resources, including information technology, to accomplish these objectives and targets.
- o Recognize and reward accomplishments and take corrective actions to address non-conformances.
- o Seek to prevent pollution before it is produced. Reduce energy consumption, water usage and the amount of waste produced at our facility, re-use and recycle whenever possible, and support pollution prevention by our contractors, suppliers and the general public.
- o Work cooperatively with other stakeholders to further common environmental objectives.
- o Communicate and reinforce this policy throughout our organization.

In addition to our annual review of the regional office's progress on environmental goals and adherence to this policy, we invite interested parties to provide us with input on this policy.

Example 5:

US General Services Administration

The General Services Administration (GSA) is a committed environmental steward. GSA is committed to providing first class workplaces that can be used safely by its customers. In order to live up to these commitments and responsibilities, GSA will:

- o Continuously strive to be the premier provider of healthy built environments for Federal employees;
- o Continuously strive to prevent waste and pollution and adopt practices that minimize the harmful effects of our operations on the natural environment;
- o Maintain transparency by consulting with, listening to, and being responsive to our customers, employees, neighbors, public interest groups, and those who work with us;
- o Work with others – our partners, contractors, and regulators – to help improve environmental, health, and safety management of the real estate management industry;
- o Promote awareness of applicable environmental, health, and safety requirements on the part of all persons carrying out GSA operations by providing training to GSA employees, and requiring contractors to demonstrate that their employees have been sufficiently trained;
- o Comply with all applicable environmental, health, and safety requirements;
- o Include measurable targets in our business plans;
- o Implement and continually improve an environmental management framework based on an external standard; and,
- o Periodically recognize those in the organization who make significant contributions to improved environmental, health, and safety performance.