

Sample Environmental Policy for Health Care Facilities

Sample Policy

The Board of Trustees/Directors, Senior Management and staff of <<*Name of Health Care Facility*>> recognize and accept the responsibility of environmental management as among the highest priorities to ensure sustainable development; to establish policies, programs, and practices for conducting operations in an environmentally sound manner; to respect and protect the local, regional, and global environment; and to support just, sustainable, social and economic development while fulfilling our healthcare mission.

<<*Name of Health Care Facilities*>> will:

- Reduce and, where possible, eliminate waste through product and packaging source reduction, reuse, and recycling;
- Establish an Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy so that all waste is handled, reduced, reused, and recycled to the highest extent possible, and/or disposed of through safe and responsible methods;
- Focus on assessment, pollution prevention, and control of environmental impacts of hospital operations activities and services;
- Implement systems and standard operating procedures to maintain compliance with all applicable US EPA, state of << *State* >> and local jurisdiction environmental requirements, as well as the << *state specific standards* >> environmental standards;
- Provide adequate resources and personnel with the necessary training, skills, and knowledge to carry out the duties and responsibilities as specified in the EPP and other related policies and related activities;
- Conduct an annual self-evaluation of all environmental practices and policies and make appropriate changes to these two policies and related activities, to continually improve the system in light of new and changing hospital programs and operations;
- Prepare an annual report on our progress in implementing this environmental policy and the EPP policy for our Board of Trustees/Directors;
- Communicate environmental performance and progress to external stakeholders, the local community, and to interested internal stakeholders as opportunities for systemwide sharing of best practices.

Disclaimer: This policy formalizes an environmental ethic with criteria by which environmental performance can be assessed. The terms “may” and “might” are not meant to encompass every imaginable consequence. Rather, these principles obligate <<Name of Health Care Facility>> to conduct business with a strong commitment to environmental excellence and to human health and safety. These principles are not intended to create new legal liabilities, expand existing rights or obligations, waive legal defenses, or otherwise affect the legal position of <<Name of Health Care Facility>>.