

Environmental Sustainability Policy for The City of Hyattsville

Introduction:

This policy affirms the City of Hyattsville's commitment to responsible environmental stewardship through the consideration of the environment in its departmental operations and all facets of managing the City of Hyattsville's resources. This commitment is manifested by incorporating principles of sustainability and energy efficiency into all of its capital improvement projects, operations and resource use. The City affirms its commitment to departmental operations and project implementation including the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of buildings in ways that conserve natural resources and reduce pollution.

Background:

Sustainable operation of all aspects of running the City of Hyattsville can reduce the negative impacts on the environment as well as save the City of Hyattsville and its residents money by reducing the cost of energy (oil, natural gas, electricity) and consumables (paper, vehicles, general upkeep). The end result is an optimal balance of cost, environmental, societal and human benefits, which also meet the mission and functions of the City, the various departments and the residents of the City of Hyattsville.

Sustainability is the concept of incorporating appropriate principles and practices to improve the preservation of natural, social, and economic prosperity throughout its life cycle. Sustainability is stabilizing the relationship between earth's two most complex systems—human [culture](#) and the natural world. Key themes of sustainability are interdependence, conservation of natural resources, and a life-cycle timeline that includes current as well as future results.

Policy:

To the maximum extent practical, the City of Hyattsville is committed to managing all aspects of the City, its facilities and their operation, in a way that practices and promotes responsible environmental stewardship. The Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, Department Heads and all staff should take the impact on the natural environment into consideration with respect to applicable actions, motions, policies, or procedures. The environmental impact should be minimal to none, with alternative sustainable approaches researched and reviewed.

PRINCIPLES:

The essential principles of sustainable operation for the City of Hyattsville will address the following factors:

- SITE – Minimize adverse environmental and transportation impacts when choosing locations for projects and when determining siting, footprint, and orientation of infrastructure within a plot.
- ENERGY – Reduce energy use, increase efficiency of energy use, and minimize the City of Hyattsville’s consumption of non-renewable sources of energy.
- MATERIALS – Reduce consumption and waste by purchasing , available, durable, reusable products and materials. Use environmentally preferable products, such as those that are repaired, restored, recycled, reusable, recyclable, non-toxic, of low-embodied energy content, and/or renewable.
- WATER – Protect and conserve water supplies, minimize pollution that may degrade the water quality of local waterways, and improve stormwater management.
- AIR – Minimize emissions of harmful air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions.
- OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE – Design facilities for operational and maintenance efficiency, using materials noted for their longevity, robustness, and low toxicity.
- EDUCATION – Provide educational messages to City residents, businesses and employees on applicable sustainable practices to lower energy use, make homes more efficient, increase repair and restoration, reuse, recycling, and other practices that reduce consumption and waste and have a positive impact on the environment, as developed by the Hyattsville Environmental Committee.

GOAL:

The City of Hyattsville’s goal is to have the principles of sustainability and energy efficiency reflected in all aspects of City operations. The City of Hyattsville will demonstrate environmental leadership by consistently adopting local regulations which meet and strive to exceed established environmental targets, standards, and requirements of the State of Maryland and Prince Georges County. The City also will implement best practices regarding issues including renewable energy and green house gas emissions, pollution prevention, reuse/recycling and brownfield remediation, stormwater management, and water quality.

OBJECTIVES:

It must be recognized that while there are many practices already implemented and underway that have and will make a large impact on achieving the goal, there are others that will take years to achieve. The City of Hyattsville will:

- For all engineering, design, construction, deconstruction, maintenance, and operation of City of Hyattsville facilities, use the criteria laid out for LEED certification whenever possible.
- Integrate life-cycle and full-cost accounting in investment decisions regarding products, services, design, and construction projects affecting building systems, long-term energy, water, and other utility operating costs, equipment, landscaping, operations, and maintenance.
- Review contracts with City service providers (maintenance, landscaping, etc.) in order to ensure environmental standards are met or exceeded.

- Review all currently owned and future purchased City property, including but not limited to vehicles, office equipment, furniture, and park equipment, for environmental and sustainability implications.
- Use City services and communication tools to promote environmentally friendly practices throughout the community.
- Keep abreast of evolving best practices through participation in relevant organizations and communication with other municipal bodies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

City of Hyattsville employees seeking additional information about this policy may wish to refer to the following resources:

- US Green Building Council - <http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19>
- Maryland Department of the Environment - <http://www.mde.state.md.us/Air/climatechange/legislation/index.asp>
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability - <http://www.iclei.org/>
- Prince George’s County Department of Environmental Resources - <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DER/>
- CoolCities - <http://coolcities.us/>
- EPA Green Communities Program - <http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/index.htm>
- SustainLane knowledge base - <http://www.sustainlane.us/>
- Energy Finder interactive tool - <http://www.energyfinder.org/>
- California Sustainability Alliance local government toolkits – http://sustainca.org/programs/green_local_government/overview