



P O L I C Y

Section: Administration

Subject: Sustainability

Approved By: DENR Secretary

Eff. Date: Dec 1, 2001

Revised:

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Purpose

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is committed to become an exemplary model and a leader in implementing the state's initiatives for responsible environmental stewardship. DENR senior management challenges both itself and individual Divisions to develop and implement sustainability initiatives and to instill in their employees a conservation ethic. Many DENR Divisions have made significant strides to implement their own sustainability projects and are making sure that employees have access to environmental education resources and materials. DENR is positioned to become a role model and resource for statewide environmental sustainability efforts. The Department endeavors to continue to promote Division and individual employee sustainability achievements to bring sustainability into DENR's daily operations.

Definition

Environmental Sustainability "...meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Environmental sustainability is the act of working toward minimizing the unwanted environmental impacts of daily activities and projects. State Government and individual employees have many opportunities to implement sustainable practices, both at home and at work, that encourage wise use of resources and that reduce or eliminate pollution.

State of North Carolina Requirements

Executive Order Number 156 – This NC Executive Order expands upon provisions originally outlined in Executive Order No. 8, requiring state agency participation in solid waste reduction, recycling, and buying recycled products. The revised Executive Order recognizes that the daily activities and routine operations of the State have a significant impact on environmental quality and use of natural resources. The Executive Order directs state agencies to develop and incorporate policies and practices into their daily operations that preserve natural resources, conserve energy, eliminate waste and emissions, and lessen overall environmental impact.

Policy

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its Divisions are expected to take real and permanent steps to reduce unwanted environmental impacts in their daily activities and projects. All DENR Divisions should implement their own sustainability projects and make sure that employees have access to environmental education resources and materials.