

**TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #22-191

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN
ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Township of Raritan Environmental Commission is dedicated to protecting the environmental assets of our community; and

WHEREAS, one of the goals of the Environmental Commission is to achieve and maintain its certification with Sustainable Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Environmentally Conscious Grounds and Maintenance Policy was originally created and adopted by Resolution #11-157 on August 16, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Policy was recently reviewed by the Department of Public Works Superintendent and Building and Grounds Foreman to ensure that the measures are currently being followed and enforced.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Raritan, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey support the Environmentally Conscious Grounds and Maintenance Policy and the ongoing efforts of the Environmental Commission and Department of Public Works to protect our natural resources.

ATTEST:

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN**



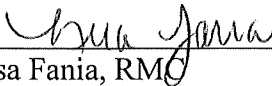
Lisa Fania, RMC
Township Clerk



Scott MacDade
Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Lisa Fania, Clerk of the Township of Raritan, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true, complete and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Township of Raritan at a meeting held on July 19, 2022.



Lisa Fania, RMO
Township Clerk

TOWNSHIP OF RARITAN ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY

Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the Township of Raritan to:

- Establish procedures, methods, and practices that benefit our natural lands and environment, health of our workers and citizens, and minimize negative environmental impacts
- Follow practices that reduce waste by increasing product and method efficiency and effectiveness
- Use products and methods that minimize environmental impacts, toxins, pollution, and hazards to worker and community safety to the fullest extent that is practical
- Use methods and products that reduce waste or increase recyclability, are sustainable, conserve energy and water, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, use unbleached or chlorine-free manufacturing processes, and use chemicals that are lead-free and mercury-free

Purpose and Objectives

The goal of this policy is to encourage and increase the use of environmentally preferable methods, products, and services in the Township of Raritan. By including environmental considerations in municipal buildings and grounds decisions, the Township of Raritan can promote practices that are beneficial to our land, beneficial to public and employee health, and conserve natural resources.

The policy objectives are to:

- minimize environmental impacts such as pollution and use of water and energy
- eliminate or reduce toxins that create hazards to workers and our community
- support strong recycling markets
- reduce materials that are routinely landfilled
- increase the use and availability of products that protect the environment
- identify environmentally preferable techniques, methods, and distribution systems
- create a model for sustainable buildings and grounds maintenance that encourages others in our community to adopt similar goals.

Research, Evaluation and Implementation

The Department of Public Works and members of the Environmental Commission shall research, evaluate, and implement sustainable methods to buildings and grounds maintenance objectives. The Commission will focus its research, evaluation and implementation on the following areas:

- Water and energy efficient products and processes (e.g., solar applications, irrigation, energy efficient lighting, appliances, vehicles and motorized equipment)
- Landscape and grounds management (e.g., integrated pest and vegetation management, use of drought tolerant/indigenous plants, recycled mulches)
- Renewable products (e.g., certified forest materials, renewable energy resources)
- Waste and pollution reduction (e.g., integrated waste management, construction debris, recycling practices, longer lasting materials and machines)
- Recycled content products (e.g., paper, playground equipment, construction materials, motor oils and lubricants, carpets, matting, plastic lumber, trash bags, parking stops)
- Reduction of chemical and toxic substances and processes (e.g., cleaning products, pest management chemicals, phosphates, paint, solvents)
- Green building program (e.g., designing and renovating for energy and resource conservation, using recycled products in construction and renovation, disposal of building materials in an environmental thoughtful means)

The Environmental Commission is aware that the evaluation and implementation phases of the project will require changes in awareness, behaviors, practices, and procedures. To the extent possible it is the Committee's intention to have as large of a participative process as possible as it researches, evaluates and implements the policy recommendations. It is also the Committee's intention to meet annually after implementation to monitor and evaluate the Township's progress in this area.

Specifications

Energy and Water Efficiency in Products and Processes

Where applicable, energy-efficient equipment shall be utilized with the most up-to-date energy efficiency functions. This includes, but is not limited to, high efficiency space heating systems, high efficiency space cooling equipment, compressors, generators, motors, and pumps. To the extent practicable:

- the Township shall replace inefficient interior lighting with energy-efficient equipment

- the Township shall replace inefficient exterior lighting, street lighting and traffic signal lights with energy-efficient equipment. Exterior lighting shall be minimized where possible to avoid light pollution and unnecessary lighting of architectural and landscape features while providing adequate illumination for safety and accessibility
- all products utilized by the Township and for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Energy Star certification is available shall meet Energy Star certification. When Energy Star labels are not available, the Township shall choose energy-efficient products that are in the upper 25% of energy efficiency as designated by the Federal Energy Management Program
- the Township shall purchase and utilize water-saving methods including high-performance fixtures like toilets, low-flow faucets and aerators, and upgraded irrigation systems

Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance

All landscape renovations, construction and maintenance performed by the Township, including workers and contractors providing landscaping services for the Township, shall employ sustainable landscape management techniques for design, construction and maintenance whenever possible, including, but not limited to, integrated pest management, grass cycling, drip irrigation, composting, and procurement and use of mulch and compost that give preference to those produced from regionally generated plant debris and/or food waste programs.

Plants should be selected to minimize waste by choosing:

- species that are appropriate to the microclimate
- species that can grow to their natural size in the space allotted them
- perennials rather than annuals for color
- native and drought-tolerant plants that require no or minimal watering once established

Hardscapes and landscape structures constructed of recycled content materials should be utilized, when and where practicable. The Township shall strive to limit the number of impervious surfaces in the landscape, wherever practicable. Permeable substitutes, such as permeable asphalt or pavers, are encouraged for walkways, patios and driveways.

Recycled/Renewable Methods and Products

All products for which the U.S. EPA has established minimum recycled content standard guidelines in the Agency's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines, such as those for printing paper, office paper, janitorial paper, construction, landscaping, parks and recreation, transportation, vehicles, miscellaneous, and non-paper office products, shall contain the highest post-consumer content practicable, but no less than the minimum recycled content standards established by the U.S. EPA Guidelines.

In accordance with New Jersey Code and the manufacturer's recommendations, the Township shall purchase re-refined lubricating and industrial oil for use in its vehicles and other equipment, as long as it is certified by the American Petroleum Institute (API) as appropriate for use in such equipment.

When specifying asphalt concrete, aggregate base or Portland cement concrete for road construction projects, the Township shall use recycled, reusable or reground materials when practicable.

The Township shall specify and purchase recycled content maintenance products, including signs, cones, parking stops, delineators, skirts and barricades, which shall contain the highest post-consumer content practicable, but no less than the minimum recycled content standards established by the U.S. EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines.

Waste Reduction

To the extent practicable the Township shall:

- institute practices that reduce waste and result in the purchase of fewer products, without reducing safety or workplace quality.
- purchase remanufactured products such as pumps, tires, furniture, equipment and automotive parts, without reducing safety, quality or effectiveness.
- require all equipment bought after the adoption of this policy to be compatible with source reduction goals.

Toxic Chemical and Pollution Reduction

The use of chlorofluorocarbon and Halon containing refrigerants, solvents and other products shall be phased out, and any new utilization of heating/ventilating/air conditioning, refrigeration, insulation and fire suppression systems shall not contain them.

All surfactants and detergents shall be readily biodegradable and, where practicable, shall not contain phosphates.

When maintaining and furnishing buildings, the Township shall strive to use products with the lowest amount of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), highest recycled content, and low or no formaldehyde when purchasing materials such as paint, carpeting, adhesives, furniture and casework.

Environmentally safe fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are to be used especially at parks, school grounds and recreational areas. Pesticides are not used near playgrounds.

Forestry Conservation Methods

To the extent practicable, the Township shall strive not to procure or utilize wood products such as lumber and paper that originate from forests harvested in an environmentally unsustainable manner. The Township shall give preference to wood products that are certified to be sustainably harvested by a comprehensive, performance-based certification system. The certification system shall include independent third-party audits, with standards equivalent to, or stricter than, those of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

To the extent practicable, the Township encourages the purchase or use of recycled, previously used, and salvaged wood and wood products whenever possible.

Priorities

The health and safety of employees and citizens is of utmost importance and takes precedence over all other policies.

To the fullest extent possible, the Township has made significant investments in developing a successful recycling system and recognizes that recycled content products are essential to the continuing viability of that recycling system and for the foundation of an environmentally sound production system. Therefore, to the greatest extent practicable, recycled content shall be included in products that also meet other specifications, such as chlorine free or bio-based.

Nothing contained in this policy shall be construed as requiring a department, division or contractor to procure products that do not perform adequately for their intended use, exclude adequate competition, or are not available at a reasonable price in a reasonable period of time.

Nothing contained in this policy shall be construed as requiring the Township, department, purchaser or contractor to take any action that shall conflict with local, state, county or federal requirements.

Implementation of the Policy

The Township Committee, Superintendent of Public Works and other responsible directors shall implement this policy in coordination with other appropriate Township personnel. Vendors, contractors and grantees shall be encouraged to comply with applicable sections of this policy for products and services provided to the Township, where practicable.

Program Evaluation

The Township Committee, Superintendent of Public Works, the Environmental Commission and other positions responsible for implementing this policy, shall periodically evaluate the success of the program.