

# How *green* Is My Town?

A Program of Grassroots Environmental Education, a non-profit organization  
[www.HowGreensMyTown.org](http://www.HowGreensMyTown.org)

## Draft Comprehensive Environmental and Sustainability Policy for Villages, Towns & Small Cities

The (*Town, Village, City*) of \_\_\_\_\_, recognizing the responsibility of governmental institutions to address issues of climate, sustainability, environmental health and economic well-being at a local level, and to fulfill its mission to protect, maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents, hereby adopts the following policy:

- 1. Energy:** We endeavor to reduce our use of non-renewable energy sources through conservation, and to increase our use of renewable energy sources whenever practical.
- 2. Purchasing:** We seek to purchase goods or services that reduce the use of energy and pollution in their manufacture, use and disposal; have lower transportation costs; contain sustainable and/or bio-based ingredients; do not contain ingredients known to be harmful to humans; and that are shipped in biodegradable or recyclable packaging.
- 3. Green Cleaning:** We endeavor to clean and maintain town facilities with products that are free from known or suspected toxins.
- 4. Sustainable Building and Development:** We encourage the preservation of open space, the renovation of existing structures over virgin development, and the construction of residential, commercial and institutional structures which reduce their impact on the environment.
- 5. Land Management:** We endeavor to manage municipal properties so as to maximize natural recycling and minimize environmental pollution.
- 6. Water Conservation:** We seek to reduce our use of water in and around

municipal facilities, and encourage the careful conservation and protection of our water supplies.

7. **Transportation:** We seek ways to minimize the environmental impact of our transportation system, encourage the use of alternative transportation modes and sustainable fuels, reduce or eliminate pollution from town-owned vehicles and reduce idling of all motor vehicles.
8. **Recycling:** We encourage and support recycling of materials at town facilities and among our residents.
9. **Environmental Toxins:** We endeavor to reduce exposure to environmental toxins in the workplace and in our community through consumer education and the collection and proper disposal of hazardous material.
10. **Communications:** We seek to inform our employees and citizens of this and all other environmental and sustainability policies and programs through written and electronic communications.