

**TOWNSHIP OF WARREN
RESOLUTION NO. 2020-125
SUPPORTING “ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS” GROUNDS AND
MAINTENANCE POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Township Committee by Resolution 2009-285 authorized the Township’s participation in the Sustainable New Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has established a Green Team which is reviewing the criteria for the Township’s recognition under the Sustainable NJ Program; and

WHEREAS, a policy for environmentally grounds and maintenance is one of the elements of said recognition.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Warren, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey adopts the policy as listed below:

8 ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE POLICY

8.0 Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the Township of Warren to:

- 8.0.1 Establish procedures, methods, and practices that benefit our natural lands and environment, health of our workers and citizens, and minimize negative environmental impacts,
- 8.0.2 utilize practices that reduce waste by increasing product and method efficiency and effectiveness,
- 8.0.3 utilize products and methods that minimize environmental impacts, toxics, pollution, and hazards to worker and community safety to the fullest extent that is practical, and
- 8.0.4 utilize 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, reduced use of chemicals and are lead-free and mercury-free, when and where practicable.

8.1 Purpose and Objectives

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

The policy objectives are to:

- 8.1.1.1 conserve natural resources,
- 8.1.1.2 minimize environmental impacts such as pollution and use of water and energy,
- 8.1.1.3 eliminate or reduce toxics that create hazards to workers and our community,
- 8.1.1.4 support strong recycling markets,
- 8.1.1.5 reduce materials that are routinely landfilled,

- 8.1.1.6 increase the use and availability of environmentally preferable products that protect the environment,
- 8.1.1.7 identify environmentally preferable techniques, methods, and distribution systems,
- 8.1.1.8 create a model for sustainable buildings and grounds maintenance that encourages others in our community to adopt similar goals.

8.2 Research, Evaluation and Implementation

8.2.1 The Department of Public Works and a member of the Green Team as well as representatives from various Township Departments will research, evaluate, and implement the sustainable methods to grounds and buildings maintenance objectives. The following areas will be reviewed:

- 8.2.1.1 Water and Energy Efficient Products and Processes (e.g. solar applications, irrigation, energy efficient lighting, appliances, vehicles and motorized equipment)
- 8.2.1.2 Landscape and Grounds Management (e.g. integrated pest and vegetation management, use of drought tolerant/indigenous plants, recycled mulches, etc.)
- 8.2.1.3 Renewable Products (e.g. certified forest materials, renewable energy resources, etc.)
- 8.2.1.4 Waste and Pollution Reduction (e.g. integrated waste management, construction debris, recycling practices, longer lasting materials and machines, reduction of vehicle emissions due to anti-idling outreach, etc.)
- 8.2.1.5 Recycled Content Products (e.g. paper, playground equipment, construction materials, motor oils and lubricants, carpets, matting, plastic lumber, trash bags, parking stops, etc.)
- 8.2.1.6 Reduction of Chemical and Toxic Substances and Processes (e.g. cleaning products, pest management chemicals, phosphates, paint, solvents, etc.)

8.2.2 We will explore ways to incorporate a Green Building Practices (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, etc.).

8.2.3 The Green Team and the Department of Public Works are aware that the evaluation and implementation of Green Building Practices require changes in awareness, behaviors, practices and procedures. To the extent possible it is the intention to have as large of a participative process as possible in the research, evaluation and implementation of the policy recommendations. It is also the intention for representatives of the Green Team, the Department of Public Works and other relevant departments to communicate periodically to monitor, evaluate, and seek further implementation of the Township's progress in this area.

8.3 Specifications

8.3.1 **Energy and Water Efficiency in Products and Processes**

- 8.3.1.1 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.
- 8.3.1.2 To the extent practicable, the Township shall replace inefficient interior lighting with energy-efficient equipment.
- 8.3.1.3 When practicable, 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.
- 8.3.1.4 All products utilized by the Township and for which the U. S. EPA Energy Star certification is available shall meet Energy Star certification, when practicable.
- 8.3.1.5 To the extent practicable the Township shall purchase and utilize water-saving methods. This includes, but is not limited to, high-performance fixtures like toilets, low-flow faucets and aerators, and upgraded irrigation systems. The Township does not use sprinkler systems and only waters to establish new plants or in specialized circumstances. Water is generally not consumed to maintain the grounds of the Township.
- 8.3.1.6

8.3.2 Landscaping and Grounds Maintenance & Efficient Landscape Design

- 8.3.2.1 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, and procurement and use of mulch and compost that give preference to those produced from regionally generated plant debris and/or food waste programs. The Green Team will provide the Department of Public Works with resources for composting.
- 8.3.2.2 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, and perennials rather than annuals for color. Native and drought-tolerant plants that require no or minimal watering once established are preferred. For a list of preferred plans, please refer to the Warren Environmental Commission list of Native Plants not favored by deer.
- 8.3.2.3 Hardscapes and landscape structures constructed of recycled content materials are encouraged to be utilized, when and where practicable. The Township shall strive to limit the amount of impervious surfaces in the landscape, wherever practicable. Permeable substitutes, such as permeable

asphalt or pavers, are encouraged for walkways, patios and driveways.

8.3.3 Recycled/Renewable Methods, Materials and Products

- 8.3.3.1 All products for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency (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.
- 8.3.3.2 The Township will continue to recycle waste oil to heat the Public Works garage.
- 8.3.3.3 When specifying asphalt concrete, aggregate base or Portland cement concrete for road construction projects, the City shall prefer the use of recycled, reusable or reground materials when practicable.
- 8.3.3.4 To the extent 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.

8.3.4 Waste Reduction

- 8.3.4.1 To the extent practicable the Township shall institute practices that reduce waste and result in the purchase of fewer products whenever practicable and cost-effective, but without reducing safety or workplace quality.
- 8.3.4.2 To the extent practicable the Township shall purchase remanufactured products such as pumps, tires, furniture, equipment and automotive parts whenever practicable, but without reducing safety, quality or effectiveness.
- 8.3.4.3 To the extent practicable the Township shall require all equipment bought after the adoption of this policy to be compatible with source reduction goals where practicable.

8.3.5 Toxic Chemical and Pollution Reduction

- 8.3.5.1 The use of chlorofluorocarbon and Halon containing refrigerants, solvents and other products shall be phased out and new utilization of heating/ventilating/air

conditioning, refrigeration, insulation and fire suppression systems shall not contain them.

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

8.3.5.3 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 practicable when purchasing materials such as paint, carpeting, adhesives, furniture and casework.

8.3.5.4 ~~For~~ Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are to be avoided with the exception of limited, specialized usage. To protect the health and well-being of our youth, residents, and all visitors, environmentally safe products are to be used especially at parks, playgrounds, school grounds and recreational areas. Integrated Pest Management is the method of choice to maintain healthy grounds.

8.3.6 Forestry Conservation Methods

8.3.6.1 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. When practicable, the Township shall give preference to wood products that are certified to be sustainably harvested by a comprehensive, performance-based certification system, such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

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

8.4 Priorities

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

8.4.2 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.

8.4.3 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.

8.4.4 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.

8.5 Implementation of the Policy

8.5.1 The Township Committee, Superintendent of Public Works and other responsible directors shall implement this policy in coordination with other appropriate Township personnel.

8.5.2 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.

8.6 Program Evaluation

8.6.1 The Township Committee, Superintendent of Public Works, the Green Team and other positions responsible for implementing this policy, shall periodically evaluate the success of this policy's implementation.

INTRODUCED	SECONDED	COMMITTEE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
		MAZIARZ	X			
	X	SORDILLO	X			
		DINARDO	X			
X		LAZO	X			
		MARION	X			

CERTIFICATION

I, Cathy Reese, Township Clerk of the Township of Warren, in the County of Somerset, New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a meeting of the Township Committee held on June 18, 2020.

Cathy Reese, RMC
 Township Clerk