

Environmental Plan

Introduction:

Community Living North Grenville serves a large population in our community throughout a number of different locations. We maintain three offices: the main administration office and community supports on Highway 43 in Kemptville, and the Merrickville Outreach office in Merrickville. We also support 8 shared homes and numerous independent living homes and apartments. In total there are over 20 residential settings with which we are involved.

We believe that we have a stewardship role as an organization and have a significant role to play in reducing landfill waste, minimizing greenhouse gasses, and addressing other issues that have a negative impact on the environment.

We have a demonstrated interest in the environment and have taken a variety of measures to reduce our impacts, frequently saving us operating costs over the long term as well. We have chosen to reduce our environmental impact in many ways, including reducing the water bottles we use, implementing an aluminum container recycling program, installing solar hot water panels at three locations (48 Kimberly Ave. and 208 Van Buren St., Highway 43 Main Office Building), changing to more energy efficient light bulbs, and pursuing local leisure and recreation activities in an effort to conserve fuel.

Our environmental plan will address all the settings in which we work and have influence: administration and the satellite office, community supports, and the residential settings. Goals and barriers vary and are sometimes specific to a setting.

In considering the environmental impacts of Community Living operations we look at:

- Inputs, for example the types and characteristics of purchases made
- How we use or do things, for example shutting of lights in unoccupied rooms and conserving water where possible
- Outputs, such as waste management, carbon contributions, and air pollutants

Strategies:

The following strategies will allow Community Living North Grenville to clearly understand our present impact on the environment and take achievable steps towards adjusting that impact.

1. We will survey Community Living North Grenville buildings and operations to determine baseline information.
2. We will strive to balance our efficient function as an organization, our concern with ensuring the health and well-being of people accessing services and those in our employ, and with attaining achievable environmental goals.
3. We will pursue connections to knowledgeable experts and reliable sources of information to assist with a long term environmental plan as we recognize that planning will be necessary in order to make the fiscal investment in alternate energy systems.
4. We will work to develop “buy in” of people accessing services and those in our employ by providing education and encouraging their participation in greening the organization and their own lives.
5. We will research innovative solutions to help minimize costs of greening the organization.
6. We will pursue funds as appropriate to assist with greening.
7. We will develop policies and procedures to guide our actions.
8. We will coordinate environmental plan related policies and practices with Health & Safety policies and practices; MCSS Compliance requirements; CARF efficiency and effectiveness goals; and Municipal, Provincial, and Federal environmental regulations and goals.

Policy & Procedure Development:

The following policies would be implemented in an integrated manner.

- *Procurement Policy*: develop a procurement policy to guide procurement of goods and services that would address but is not limited to:
 - Routine, relatively inexpensive purchases: paper, supplies, food products, etc.
 - Information Technology purchases: computers, printers, photocopiers,
 - Capital investments: vehicles, buildings
 - Retain environmentally preferred service providers

- *Waste Management Policy*: develop a waste management policy that would address but is not limited to:
 - Waste reduction: Eg. Limiting the purchases of certain products
 - Waste streaming into recycling, compostable and garbage.

- Directing technology waste to appropriate recyclers.
- Appropriate disposal of appliances, furniture.
 - *Property and Vehicle Operation, Maintenance and Energy Efficiency*
- Maintenance of buildings, properties, and vehicles to ensure optimum efficient operation.
- Extending the life of vehicles and buildings through maintenance and timely repairs.
- Fuel efficient vehicles will be considered when replacements are due. Financial considerations will need to be addressed. A schedule of vehicle replacement will be maintained with this in mind;
- Electrical consumption reviewed and recommendations for reduced electrical use, such as moderating use of heating and cooling.
- When looking at appliance lifespan, evaluate and find a balance between improved energy savings and the environmental cost of disposal.
- In keeping with MCSS requirements, move towards the use of cleaning products that are less toxic and more environmentally friendly. Decreasing the use of more harmful products.
- Use non-chemical approaches to yard and lawn maintenance.
- Discontinue use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.
- Employ strategies that allow water conservation both for human and garden use, such as using rain barrels and watering gardens during cooler times of the day.
- Chose to replace dirtier technologies with cleaner ones as able eg. Replace 2 stroke lawn mowers with 4 stroke.
 - *Recreation & Leisure*
- Pursue local recreation and leisure activities to reduce fuel consumption and carbon production. Pursue activities that are non-consumptive in nature.
- Green activities to reduce waste production.

Review of the Environmental Plan

The environment plan will be monitored by the Environmental Committee annually.