



H. W. FLESHER HOUSING CO-OP

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HW Flesher Environmental Sustainability Policy

Approved by the General Membership on 2019 April 24th

Purpose: The purpose of this Policy is to help guide decision-making on the part of the Co-op Board and membership, in support of environmental sustainability. It is intended to provide guidelines but not to be prescriptive nor limited to the “example actions” listed. As needed, specific policies may be drafted in future, in support of this over-arching policy.

Commitment: Our co-op recognizes that a healthy environment is vital for our own health, well-being and prosperity, and for the sake of present and future generations of people and all species. We recognize the responsibility of all of society to take action to protect the natural environment and reduce the human contribution to climate change. Therefore, we will strive to manage our property, to make decisions, and to encourage behaviour and practices from our members, suppliers and contractors, in a way that supports a healthy environment.

Guiding Principles

- Evidence-based – e.g. prioritizing actions with greatest demonstrable benefits
- Time sensitive and long-term - considering both short and long term objectives, including the welfare of future generations
- Holistic – e.g. considers life cycle costs and benefits for environmental, social and economic sustainability, including non-monetary factors

Goals and Actions

This policy includes the following numbered goals and supporting example actions.

1. **Land Use and Site:** respecting, protecting and enhancing the natural environment, while considering land use that supports the co-op’s operational needs and long term goals. **Example Actions:**
 - a. Consider ways to manage and plant trees and landscaping to support native biodiversity.
 - b. Consider opportunities to reduce runoff with on-site rainwater retention, re-use and/or infiltration.
 - c. Seek ways to minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides where possible.

A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WITH SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR EACH OTHER, OUR HOMES, AND OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

- d. Consider site improvements and long-term planning that support the sustainability of the co-op and aligned goals of the broader community.
2. **Buildings and Energy:** improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from buildings, and improving indoor air quality and comfort, in new buildings and through retrofits. **Example Actions:**
 - a. Seek to achieve high levels of energy efficiency and low carbon emissions in new buildings.
 - b. Investigate building and energy system retrofits that increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.
 - c. Provide information and investigate funding programs to support members in making energy efficient upgrades to their units.
3. **Transportation:** supporting green transportation options such as transit, walking, cycling, shared vehicle ownership and zero-emission vehicles. **Example Actions:**
 - a. Install and maintain adequate, secure bicycle storage and seek to manage bike storage efficiently.
 - b. Encourage active transportation by members, such as by providing information and resources.
 - c. Seek to manage parking demand and consider alternative uses for under-utilized parking spaces that support the Co-op's goals.
 - d. Consider installing electric vehicle charging.
4. **Water Conservation:** reducing individual and communal use of potable water resources. **Example Actions:**
 - a. Choose low-flow fixtures when feasible when units are upgraded.
 - b. Consider landscape design and management strategies that reduce the need for irrigation.
 - c. Encourage members to conserve water, such as by providing education and resources.
5. **Waste Diversion:** minimizing landfill waste and ensuring proper recycling and waste disposal. **Example Actions:**
 - a. Provide proper recycling and green waste bins, services to maintain them, and information about their correct use.
 - b. Encourage construction and demolition waste diversion by contractors.
 - c. Seek to provide resources and information to members about the proper recycling or disposal of hazardous waste, electronics, bulky items and other materials.
 - d. Consider selecting supplies and materials with recycled content.
 - e. Look for opportunities to re-use or donate re-usable items and building supplies.

6. **Food Systems:** supporting local and sustainably grown/raised food. **Example Actions:**
- a. Consider providing and supporting opportunities for members to grow and process food grown on site.
 - b. Consider choosing local, organic, and humanely raised food for co-op events where possible.