

**A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE ADOPTION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION**

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, to establish an Environmental Sustainability Policy applicable to the Department of Parks & Recreation;

**WHEREAS**, Calvert County’s natural environment continues to be highly valued for its contribution to quality of life;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks & Recreation is the caretaker of portions of natural areas, and should set an example in the community as a leader in protecting the environment;

**WHEREAS**, the Calvert County Environmental Commission recommended approval of the Environmental Sustainability Policy at their March 29, 2021 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, whenever possible, decisions related to sustainability and conservation should be made with the best interest of the environment in mind.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, hereby adopts the Environmental Sustainability Policy attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, that the foregoing recitals are adopted as if fully rewritten herein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, that in the event any portion of this Resolution is found to be unconstitutional, illegal, null or void it is in the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to sever only the invalid portion or provision, and that the remainder of the Resolution shall be enforceable and valid.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, that this Resolution shall be effective upon recordation, without publication of a fair summary, and will stay in effect until amended or rescinded by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland.

**DONE**, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021 by the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, Maryland, sitting in regular session.

Aye:	<u>5</u>
Nay:	<u>0</u>
Absent/Abstain:	<u>0</u>

BK 0063PG0452

Resolution No. 16-21

Re: Pertaining to the Adoption of an  
Environmental Sustainability Policy  
Page 2 of 2

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND**

*Rachel M. Distel*  
Rachel M. Distel, Clerk

*Earl F. Hance*  
Earl F. Hance, President

Approved for form and legal  
sufficiency by:

*Steven R. Weems*  
Steven R. Weems, Vice-President

*Mike Hart*  
Mike Hart

*John B. Norris, III*  
John B. Norris, III, County Attorney

Unavailable to sign *(RD)*  
Thomas E. Hutchins

*Kelly D. McConkey*  
Kelly D. McConkey

Received for Record..... April 27 2021  
at..... 1:56 o'clock..... P..... M. Same day  
recorded in Liber KPS No. .... 63 .....  
Folio..... 451 ..... COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION.

*Garry P. Smith*



**CALVERT COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
GUIDELINE/POLICY/PROCEDURE**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Environmental Sustainability Policy</b>		
<b>ISSUED BY:</b>	Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)		
<b>RESPONSIBLE STAFF:</b>	Department of Parks & Recreation		
<b>ISSUE DATE:</b>	04/20/2021	<b>REVISION DATE:</b>	
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	Calvert County’s natural environment continues to be highly valued for its contribution to quality of life. CCPR should set an example in the community as a leader in protecting the environment. Decisions related to sustainability and conservation should be made with the best interests of the environment and the community in mind. Environmental Sustainability and Conservation are not the responsibility of one agency or organization, but the entire community. Both short- and long-term benefits can be achieved from protecting the environment. The mission, goals, and objectives of CCPR include to conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources. CCPR offers quality experiences while creating a sustainable future for our community and by being stewards of the environment for years to come.		
<b>APPLICABLE TO:</b>	Department of Parks & Recreation (CCPR)		
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>			

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>GUIDELINE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>POLICY</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>PROCEDURE</b>
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**This document needs to be reviewed/updated:**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Annually</b> <input type="checkbox"/> (Fiscal Year) <input type="checkbox"/> (Calendar Year)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other Interval:</b>	Two years	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>As needed</b>	<b>Flag for review on:</b>	03/2023

**I. Purpose**

Calvert County’s natural environment continues to be highly valued for its contribution to quality of life. CCPR should set an example in the community as a leader in protecting the environment. Decisions related to sustainability and conservation should be made with the best interests of the environment and the community in mind. Environmental Sustainability and Conservation are not the responsibility of one agency or organization, but the entire community. Both short- and long-term benefits can be achieved from protecting the environment. The mission, goals, and objectives of CCPR include to conserve, protect, and enhance natural resources. CCPR offers quality experiences while creating a sustainable future for our community and by being stewards of the environment for years to come.

**II. Policy**

It is the policy of CCPR to follow all Green and Environmental Sustainability policies of Calvert County, as well as local, state, and federal laws as they pertain to environmental sustainability. CCPR will work with other departments, agencies, vendors, and the public to identify and promote Environmental Sustainability initiatives.

### III. Definitions

*Dark Sky Lighting:* Outdoor lighting designed to direct light to the ground, not up into the sky where it can contribute to light pollution.

*Environmental Sustainability:* Responsible interaction with the environment to avoid depletion or degradation of natural resources and allow for long-term environmental quality. The ability of CCPR to provide the community with quality experiences without impacting future generations in achieving the same goals.

*Green:* Issues, policies, procedures, and other actions that relate to or are concerned with the protection of the environment.

### IV. Procedure

1. Staff shall review policies and laws locally, statewide, and federally to ensure proper compliance.
2. Environmental Sustainability practices outlined should be applied to all aspects of CCPR functions.
3. CCPR will work to implement aspects of the National Recreation and Park Association Conservation Task Force's Top Ten Recommendations.
  - a. Take a leadership role in the community to promote conservation.
  - b. Lead by example in employing best management conservation practices in parks.
  - c. Protect natural resources in parks and the community.
  - d. Forge partnerships that foster the mission of conservation
  - e. Create sustainable landscapes that demonstrate principles of conservation.
  - f. Engage youth in conservation. Get kids and teens outdoors and enjoying their parks.
  - g. Involve volunteers in conservation and stewardship.
  - h. Establish a strategic land acquisition strategy based on knowledge and awareness of significant natural and cultural resources (watershed protection, unique ecological characteristics, and sensitive natural areas deserving protection).
  - i. Conserve energy in all ways.
  - j. Utilize technology to promote conservation.

### V. Purchasing

1. CCPR will, in compliance with Calvert County Administrative Procedures for Purchasing, when able, purchase items that are manufactured all or in part with recycled materials. The following practices help to sustain the demand for items manufactured in this manner.
  - a. Purchase items with the most sustainable percentage of recyclable material;
  - b. Purchase locally to reduce carbon emissions;
  - c. Purchase fuel-efficient and alternative fuel vehicles; and
  - d. Encourage the use of recyclable packaging by suppliers.

### VI. Facility Designs, Construction, and Upgrades

1. During planning and implementation, efficiencies are often an afterthought or missed altogether. By making sustainability elements, and research of them, a requirement from concept through implementation it ensures a sustainable final product for current and future generations.
  - a. During the design process, CCPR will be guided by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building rating system at a silver rating level although CCPR will not seek formal LEED certification for any buildings at this time.
  - b. New designs will consider the viability of incorporating renewable energy (e.g., solar panels and electric vehicle charging stations) and energy conservation measures. Retrofitting energy conservation strategies for existing facilities also will be considered.
  - c. Design guidelines should be comprehensive, sustainable, and maintainable.
  - d. Project management should encourage and enforce, when applicable, safe and environmentally friendly practices that support the guidelines set forth by the Calvert County Soil Conservation District, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
  - e. CCPR will utilize Dark Sky Lighting to minimize light pollution to nearby property and sensitive species.
  - f. When designing new or upgrading existing amenities, CCPR should attempt to use materials that are made with recycled or recyclable products. Reduced, or no waste elements and products should be used where feasible.
  - g. Facilities that utilize water should use low flow valves and fixtures when applicable and should follow the principles outlined in the Water and Wildlife Conservation and Protection section in the policy.
  - h. CCPR will work to create sustainable landscapes and utilize native plantings in all landscaping efforts with the exception of turf grass, erosion control grasses, or historical landscapes. Invasive species shall not be used in any landscape design.
  - i. Ensure that effective stormwater management is applied to all CCPR facilities to protect water quality in our local water bodies and utilize Environmental Site Design and Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the greatest extent practicable.
  - j. CCPR will reduce impervious surface areas to the greatest extent possible.

## **VII. Water and Wildlife Conservation and Protection**

1. Water conservation and protection are essential to a sustainable environment, wildlife population, and pollution mitigation. As part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, water quality is a top priority in our region. Water conservation and protection play a large role in those efforts. CCPR will utilize the following efforts in conservation and protection.
  - a. Help to educate the citizens of our county through programming, events, publications, social media, and by CCPR taking the lead as stewards of the environment.
  - b. Assist the Department of Planning & Zoning to maintain and implement forest conservation plans.
  - c. Prioritize preserving land that is adjacent to water sources and stream buffers, has water access, agricultural areas, wetlands, and marshes.
  - d. Produce and implement an approved Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) every five (5) years.

- e. Utilize plumbing and wastewater systems that reduce water usage and waste production.
- f. Utilize rain barrels where possible to collect rainwater from building downspouts for subsequent irrigation during dry periods.
- g. In irrigated areas, use available irrigation programming to minimize water usage and track water usage trends and weather conditions to identify areas for improvement.
- h. Utilize fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and related chemicals only as needed and under proper licensure requirements using best practices in caring for landscaping.
  - i. Minimize or avoid the use of chemicals in concentrations that could be harmful to humans and wildlife.
  - ii. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs should be followed to control pest populations. The use of neonicotinoids should be a last resort and not part of preventive measures.

#### **VIII. Staff Roles**

1. Every CCPR employee plays a vital role in the success of Environmental Sustainability.
  - a. *Director*: Responsible for recommending changes or updates to this policy to the BOCC and distribute approved updates to CCPR employees.
  - b. *Deputy Director & Division Chiefs*: Implement and administer training to managers, coordinators, supervisors, and superintendents. Ensure that supervisors are training the general CCPR employee population.
  - c. *Supervisors*: Each supervisor must ensure that each employee understands their role by training and providing this policy to employees for review.

#### **IX. Technology and Electronics**

1. Technology and electronics serve an important part of the Sustainability of the environment. Appropriate incorporation of technology and automation can greatly reduce the amount of paper waste by using programs and services that do not require printed materials. Technology can reduce carbon emissions by reducing the need to transport files and reports by vehicle between locations. The use of timing and scheduling software can reduce energy and water consumption.
  - a. CCPR will utilize the County's financial system to track expenditures and reduce the use of paper.
  - b. CCPR will use an electronic scheduling system to complete transactions and offer an electronic receipt whenever possible to reduce paper usage.
  - c. Electronic communications such as, but not limited to, social media, the County website, and email will be used to advertise and collect public input to reduce paper usage.
  - d. When connecting offsite, the use of programs and electronics such as tablets or laptops should be used to have meetings in place of traveling to a site. This includes following Calvert County's policy on Telework procedures. This will reduce carbon emissions.
  - e. Scheduling software to schedule lights as well as to schedule and monitor irrigation will reduce wasted energy and water usage.

#### **X. Energy Conservation & Waste Reduction**

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1. CCPR commits to addressing energy-saving efforts and steps to take better care of our environment through continued Sustainability practices.
  2. CCPR will continue to work with local electricity providers to minimize power consumption, especially during peak usage times.
  3. CCPR will participate in all recycling programs offered through Calvert County.
  4. CCPR will, whenever feasible, separate disposed of materials to maximize recycling and minimize dumping charges.

**XI. Tracking Sustainability Initiatives**

1. CCPR will compile information on Environmental Sustainability initiatives and measures undertaken.
2. CCPR will issue a biennial report summarizing Environmental Sustainability related accomplishments over the past two years.