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## DRAKENSTEIN LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

### GEN\_Environmental Policy 2008-02

APPROVAL SIGNATURE:

  
2009/08/21

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## 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy Statement is to drive and direct the strategic and overarching goals of the DM Council as far as Environmental Management issues are concerned.

## 2. SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This policy applies to all relevant the business processes and functions of DM, including contractors and suppliers.

## 3. REFERENCES

- 3.1. ISO 14001 requirement (4.2) Environmental Policy
- 3.2. EMS Policy Manual

## 4. DEFINITIONS

Refer to Master List of Definitions

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY DRAKENSTEIN MUNICIPALITY

### PREAMBLE

Drakenstein Municipality acknowledges its environment responsibilities in the following fields:

- DM the environmental governor – with a duty to govern others in line with its environmental mandates;
- DM the governed – to at least operate all activities, products, services and facilities lawfully in terms of applicable environmental legal requirements;
- DM is manager of its own activities, facilities, products and services – to reduce ecological footprints of our operations;
- DM as manager of global common goods – ensuring sustainable use and protection of natural resources where we are mandated to do so and co-operate with other organs of state where co-operation is required.

### The Drakenstein Municipality is committed to:

#### Prevention of pollution and degradation of the environment

- Prevent pollution and degradation of environment that may be caused by the activities, products, services and facilities controlled by DM, including influencing its contractors and suppliers to do the same and to co-operate with other organs of state where required to:
  - Improve ambient air quality;
  - Reduce nuisance noise to acceptable standards;
  - Improve land and soil quality;
  - Improve surface and ground water quality;
  - Improve degraded ecosystems;
  - To calculate and reduce the carbon footprint of DM's activities, products, services and facilities.

#### Compliance to legal and other requirements

- Ensure sustained compliance to applicable legal and adopted requirements.
- Making applications for all outstanding authorisations, licenses, permits and similar;
- To ensure all DM posts are filled with suitably qualified, registered and/or certified personnel as required;

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- Managing the entire life cycle of authorisation processes in order to ensure continuous conformity to requirements and safe keeping of relevant documents of external origin.

#### **Protection, Conservation and Management of Resources**

- Where DM is mandated to:
  - Protect or conserve identified natural resources, including biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- To adopt, implement and drive programs to reduce the:
  - per capita water use foot print of the DM operations, citizens and businesses;
  - per capita energy consumption of the DM operations, citizens and businesses;
- To routinely monitor air, water, ground water, drinking water quality and biodiversity within the DM's area of jurisdiction against acceptable quality standards;
- To protect, conserve and use DM's diverse cultural resource estate on a sustainable basis;
- To ensure that DM manages its human resources base by:
  - Recruiting suitably qualified and experienced staff;
  - Training staff, contractors and suppliers to ensure implementation of this policy and the EMS;
  - Communicate relevant environmental information to staff, contractors and suppliers.

#### **Provision of services and maintenance of infra-structure**

- To deliver services and facilities to all Drakenstein's citizens that:
  - Meet basic needs and requirements;
  - Are accessible;
  - Are lawful;
  - Are affordable;
  - Are safe and sustainable.
- To maintain and improve DM's infrastructure and facilities to ensure that they remain:
  - Lawful;
  - Efficient, including reducing resource consumption intensity;
  - Effective;
  - Preventing pollution or harm to people and the environment.

#### **Sustainable Land Use**

- To ensure that all land use decisions made by the DM are:
  - lawful and
  - in line with national, provincial and DM's policies, including
  - sustainability principles;
  - taking into account cultural heritage;
  - industrial and residential land and finally
  - urban agriculture.

#### **Environmental Emergencies**

DM is committed to:

- Identify, plan for, respond to and mitigate the environmental impacts of all potential environmental emergency scenarios that DM is mandated to address.
- Take reasonable measures to prevent both occurrence and recurrence of emergency situations
- To render emergency service support to others as required and agreed.

#### **Waste Management**

DM is committed:

- To manage the lifecycle of general waste in line with the principles of integrated waste management so as to ensure:
  - Lawful conduct
  - Prevention of pollution and harm

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- Adherence to the waste management hierarchy of: reduce, re-use, recycle, treat and finally responsible disposal;
- To provide safe and lawful facilities to temporally collect and store non-medical, hazardous waste generated within the DM area of jurisdiction for eventual disposal at a suitably licensed facility.
- To monitor the entire life cycle of medical waste within the DM's area of jurisdiction to ensure best practices and lawful conduct.

#### **Governance**

- To improve DM's environmental governance capacity by:
  - Reviewing and revising all relevant bylaws;
  - Generating and adopting new by-laws where required;
  - Improving internal EMS and legal compliance audit capabilities
  - Improving environmental control arrangements to govern environmental performance by others;
  - Improving DM's enforcement capabilities.
- To participate in co-operative governance initiatives where required and practicable.

#### **Continual improvement**

- To continually improve DM's environmental management system.

#### **Communication and Reporting**

- To regularly report back on DM's environmental management performance to:
  - The public, in terms of the SoER, IDP and EMF;
  - Other organs of state in terms of statutory reporting requirements.
  - DM staff and contractors in terms of the URL, public special events and newsletters.

#### **14001 Mandatories**

- To comply with all the mandatory requirements in ISO 14001.

#### **Local Economic Development**

- To promote, facilitate and encourage local tourism in:
  - Rural agricultural areas and
  - Previously disadvantaged communities.

(THE END OF THE POLICY STATEMENT)

