



<b>Title: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY</b>		<b>Number: 0148</b>
<b>Reference:</b> Development & Infrastructure Committee – June 20, 2012	<b>Adopted by City Council:</b> July 3, 2012  <i>AK ped</i>	<b>Supersedes:</b> Policy 0115 November 19, 1990  Policy 0124 July 7, 1997
<b>Prepared by: ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>		

**STATEMENT:**

The City of Medicine Hat places a high value on creating and sustaining a healthy natural environment for present and future generations, and accepts as its obligation the protection and enhancement of the environment.

The City of Medicine Hat is committed to providing environmental leadership by creating a corporate culture dedicated to protection and enhancement of the environment through implementation of an enterprise-wide Environmental Management System and department-specific actions that conform to the requirements of the ISO 14001 standard.

The City expects all of its divisions, departments and individual employees to be environmentally responsible, diligent and committed to:

- Ensuring that all legal/regulatory requirements with respect to the environment are known, understood and complied with;
- Ensuring that other commitments of the City with respect to the environment are known, and where reasonable and practicable are complied with;
- Developing strategies and plans for the prevention of pollution; and
- Providing an environmental management framework for setting and reviewing environmental objectives and targets, and for achieving continual improvement of environmental management practices and performance.

The City's Environmental Management Policy will be communicated to all employees, and made available to the public and other stakeholders.

**PURPOSE:**

The City of Medicine Hat has developed this Environmental Policy to:

1. Affirm its commitment to protecting the environment for the benefit of present and future generations, within the City's sphere of activity and influence;

2. Promote environmental stewardship and leadership in the protection and enhancement of the environment in City activities and operations;
3. Practice due diligence and foster continual improvement of environmental performance by ensuring active and effective environmental assessment, planning, monitoring and management in conformance with the requirements of the ISO 14001 environmental management standard.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

The City of Medicine Hat shall lead its employees, operations and community towards environmental stewardship by:

1. Striving to achieve a sustainable community by balancing social responsibility, economic development and growth with environmental protection to ensure a high quality of life for both present and future generations;
2. Complying with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to operational practices;
3. Ensuring due diligence by making environmental considerations an integral part of the municipal decision making process, municipal policies, planning and operations, within the limits of budgetary constraints;
4. Promoting a corporate environmental culture that respects, appreciates and reflects the surrounding environment;
5. Addressing operational environmental responsibilities and aspects through fostering continual improvement, efficiency, pollution prevention, recycling, information gathering and participation in environmental initiatives;
6. Ensuring that the Environmental Management System is documented, implemented and maintained across City operations;
7. Making this Environmental Policy readily available to all persons working with and on behalf of the City, and to the general public.

## SCOPE

This Policy #0148 is a corporate Environmental Policy to be followed as a minimum standard in conjunction with applicable department-specific actions. City departments are both empowered and mandated to identify their environmental aspects and impacts, and to autonomously create specific environmental policies, objectives and targets necessary to conform to the requirements of ISO 14001 at the departmental level.