

## **Goshen College Environmental Policy**

### **October 1, 2012**

Goshen College takes the teachings of Jesus as a central focal point. A natural outcome of this is the Christian stewardship of the environment and the natural resources around us. Goshen College has a history of taking environmental concerns seriously and acting to increase the ecological consciousness and responsibility of the campus. As part of our commitment to being global citizens, Goshen College sees its responsibility of care for the earth as something to be incorporated within all activities of the college.

In achieving excellence in teaching, research and learning, Goshen College aims to manage its activities, buildings and estates within its available resources and in the context of achieving its stated mission and programs, in a manner that promotes environmental sustainability wherever it is economically feasible. The College will thus strive to conserve and enhance natural resources and to prevent environmental pollution to bring about a continual improvement in its environmental performance.

Within the context of our available economic resources, Goshen College will strive to comply fully with environmental legislation and officially approved codes of practice, and will make continued efforts to:

- Promote sound environmental management policies and practices;
- Increase awareness of environmental responsibilities amongst faculty, staff and students;
- Work with other agencies to promote appropriate environmental policies;
- Implement policies and procedures that contribute to a reduction in the College's carbon footprint.
- Maximize the proportion of waste that is recycled and minimize the quantity of non-recyclable refuse.
- Encourage use of seasonal, local, or sustainable food whenever reasonably possible.
- Reduce energy consumption, especially of energy derived from fossil fuels, in all College property.
- Minimize consumption of water
- Minimize use of chemical pollutants
- Maintain the grounds and buildings of the College in an environmentally sensitive as well as aesthetically pleasing way that enhances the college's image and mission;
- Have regard to environmental factors as far as practicable that fits with and enhances the growth of the College
- Encourage modes of transport by staff and students which minimize the environmental impact

The implementation of this policy will be the responsibility of the VP for Finance, with counsel from the Ecological Stewardship Committee. This Committee normally meets 3-4 times during each college semester, and includes representation of relevant staff, faculty and student members. The Committee will recommend and monitor plans and initiatives for improving environmental performance, with measurable indicators where possible, and will maintain a website communicating and documenting the college's efforts in these areas.