

Model Environmental Policy for Bioenergy Companies

What is an Environmental Policy?

Companies develop corporate environmental policies for a variety of reasons, including communicating corporate environmental values, showcasing environmental practices, defining procurement preferences and differentiating themselves from competitors.

Regardless of your organization's reasons for developing an environmental policy, it should not be entered into lightly. Actual implementation of the policy should be something that your organization can achieve, improve upon and sustain for many years.

Due diligence is an essential first step in developing an environmental policy you can deliver and build upon. You will want to work with all important stakeholders, including the conservation science community and your suppliers to gather information that facilitates informed decisions about your business. Additionally, it is important to establish realistic expectations about achieving stated goals and outline how you intend to measure and report environmental performance.

Your organization will want to consider the following questions prior to developing an environmental policy.

- How will an environmental policy affect the entire organization?
- Is an environmental policy important to your organization's mission?
- Is an environmental policy important to your organization's reputation and/or social license to operate?
- Is an environmental policy important to your relationship with your customers?
- Is an environmental policy consistent with your company's values?
- Can the environmental policy realistically be implemented?
- How will environmental performance be measured and reported?

You may be ready to begin drafting an environmental policy once you have gathered sufficient information and performed an internal assessment to determine if an environmental policy is right for your organization. Take your time, consult with a variety of stakeholders and ensure that your policy is well thought out and a good fit for your business.

Environmental policies generally address some or all of the following topics: sustainable forestry, procurement practices, such as fiber sourcing; monitoring, and public reporting. In terms of sourcing from well-managed forests, our knowledgeable staff is available to help you develop a policy that is tailored to your organization's unique needs.

We have developed a sample policy for reference in the development of your organization's environmental policy related to the sourcing of bioenergy feedstocks from forests.

Sample Policy for Bioenergy Companies

Company Name Emphasizes Bioenergy Feedstocks from Environmentally Responsible Resources

Our Commitment to the Environment

Bioenergy Feedstock Environmental Policy

Company Name recognizes that leadership in the bioenergy industry carries a responsibility to the environment and, in particular, conserving the world's natural resources. As an industry leader, *Company Name* is positioned to contribute to the development and implementation of environmental solutions in the bioenergy sector. *Company Name* fully supports those responsible forest management practices that promote sustainability and result in long-term economic and environmental benefit.

Our Goals:

Education. We will educate our staff, suppliers, shareholders, and customers about our commitment to the environment and promote awareness and accountability on environmental issues. We will regularly review this policy to ensure it reflects the latest information and affords opportunities for us to exercise leadership in the development of environmental standards.

Continued Improvement. We will continue to look for opportunities to improve our environmental policies. We will set and work toward achieving aggressive company environmental goals.

Responsible Forestry Practices. We care about our forests and the bioenergy feedstocks sourced from our forests. It is our commitment — and our challenge — to promote sustainable forestry in order to meet the needs of today without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations. We recognize wood fiber as a high quality and reliable raw material for bioenergy feedstocks. As a bio-based, renewable product trees play a vital role in reducing greenhouse gases by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and are grown in sufficient quantities to guarantee the long-term sustainability of the resources.

Public Education. We commit to doing our part by working to educate our customers about the science of responsible forest management and bioenergy feedstock production from forest fiber.

Environmental Practices:

Energy Conservation. We encourage all suppliers to pursue energy conservation, increased energy efficiency, greater utilization of renewable energy sources, and opportunities for cogeneration of electricity.

Employee Training. We support companies that regularly train their employees about their environmental responsibilities and promote awareness and accountability on these matters.

Continuous Improvement. We encourage suppliers to document continuous improvement in resource management and increasing energy efficiency. We will continue to work with our suppliers to develop innovative technologies to meet this goal.

Research. We support companies that contribute to research and strive for the development of new technologies, processes, or measurements that will enable them to manufacture products and use resources more efficiently, while minimizing environmental impacts.

Monitor & Report. We encourage all suppliers to monitor and regularly report on their environmental health and safety performance.

Sustainable Forestry Practices:

We recognize that only 10% of the world's forests and 30% of North America's forests are certified. We understand the importance of supporting the growth of forest certification in our supply area, but also recognize the need for responsible fiber sourcing practices when certified fiber is not available. We recognize forest certification programs that have measures in place to ensure that non-certified fiber entering the supply chain is also from responsible sources.

Forest Certification Programs. We will emphasize procurement of bioenergy feedstocks from forests managed by companies that practice and encourage sustainable forest management or responsible procurement based on independent certification audits and the concept of continuous improvement. We recognize there are a variety of different, credible sustainable forest certification systems in place throughout North America and the world, including:

- The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® program - promoting the practice of sustainable forestry in the US and Canada, and recognizing the importance of landowner outreach and landowner education in achieving a broad commitment to wise forest use globally.
- The American Tree Farm System® - encouraging and promoting forestry excellence on family forests in the United States.
- The Canadian Standards Association - promoting sustainable forestry practices on publically-owned forests in Canada and also supporting a standard for woodlot owners.
- The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification - endorsing nationally and regionally created forest certification programs that meet minimum requirements for standard setting, substance, auditing procedures and accreditation.
- The Forest Stewardship Council program - reducing tropical deforestation and promoting well-managed forests throughout the world.

We intend to increase the purchase of bioenergy feedstocks from companies that subscribe to and encourage credible and sustainable forestry programs. There may be other sustainable forestry programs developed in the future that we may add to the above list.

Chain of Custody. We will support companies that have chain of custody certifications. Chain of Custody (CoC) is the process of tracking and recording the possession and transfer of wood and fiber from the forests or origin through the different stages of production – primary manufacturing, secondary manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing – to the end user.

Protection of Biodiversity. We support measures that conserve areas scientifically recognized to represent high biodiversity value, contain unique or rare forest communities, or viable populations of individual plant and animal species deemed critically imperiled or imperiled. We support the conservation of forests in areas outside of North America identified as biodiversity hotspots and major biodiversity wilderness areas.

Illegal Logging. We support the conservation of forest areas designated for protection by law and will encourage governments and the private sector to work together to end all illegal logging in areas where timber harvesting is expressly prohibited. We will support government monitoring and assessment of forests as essential to devising appropriate and effective means to counteract illegal logging.