

Four Simple Rules for Creating an Environmental Policy

There are four basic rules for writing and displaying an environmental policy for your business. The policy should include:

1. A commitment to protecting the environment. This may be a simple statement that your business promises to do all it can to keep the environment healthy or it may specifically mention environmental stewardship methods. For instance, it could simply state, “(Name of Business) is committed to protecting our environment by conducting business in such a way as to conserve energy, water and natural resources.” OR, it may state, “(Name of Business) practices environmental stewardship by reducing waste, recycling, installing energy efficient lighting, and by installing low-flow water fixtures.”
2. A commitment to observing all laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment.
3. A commitment to continually improve your environmental stewardship program.
4. The completed policy should be signed and dated by the owner or manager of the business and should be displayed where employees and customers can easily see it.

Here is an example that may give you some ideas for your own policy:

Green Host Inn Environmental Policy

The Green Host Inn seeks to be a better steward of the earth by creating a healthy environment for its guests, employees and community. We promise to do this by implementing an energy reduction program, water conservation program, by helping to protect air quality and by reducing the amount of solid waste generated. Our hotel is also committed to setting a good corporate example of environmental stewardship.

The Green Host Inn is committed to observing all Federal, state and local laws and ordinances aimed at protecting the environment.

The Green Host Inn will continually seek to reduce its environmental footprint by looking for new and better ways to reduce its reliance on natural resources.

If you need further assistance in writing your environmental policy, call Tom Rhodes at (919) 707-8140 or email, tom.rhodes@ncdenr.gov.