



## **Public Works and Utilities Department ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

The City of Gastonia Public Works and Utilities Department is firmly committed to the implementation of a management system which will minimize negative and advance positive impacts on the environment and which will control costs to be borne by the consumer. Believing these goals to be fully achievable, the Department has and/or will:

- Establish processes and procedures to promote continuing improvement of compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.
- Establish processes and procedures to enhance the environment by committing to sustainable, environmentally acceptable management practices and operations.
- Establish processes and procedures to continue efforts to strengthen and improve knowledge of environmental issues within the Department.
- Establish processes and procedures to promote continual improvement of the Department's activities, products, and services.
- Seek optimal operation of 1.) the water and wastewater delivery, collection, distributions, and treatment, systems 2.) the stormwater system and 3.) the activities associated with streets, traffic, landscape and cemeteries to minimize environmental impacts and practice prevention of pollution where technically and economically feasible, even if not required by law or regulation.
- Establish a manual, which provides the framework for development and periodic review of the management system, objectives and targets, and environmental compliance with all laws and regulations, as well as with the requirements of any other program to which the City's Public Works and Utilities Department subscribes.
- Commit to the National Biosolids Partnership Code of Good Practice and the Public Works and Utilities Department's Good Neighbor policy.
- Incorporate the principles of the Code of Good practice during policy and procedure development, where applicable, to produce improved product quality and to further develop community relationships.
- Promote cooperation and understanding with the public, customers, and governmental agencies by developing and reviewing economically feasible and environmentally sound objectives and targets.
- Continue to promptly report all noncompliance issues in accordance with applicable governmental reporting requirements, evaluate causes of noncompliance, and implement corrective actions.
- Establish processes and procedures to ensure that all employees are knowledgeable of, understand and comply with, all applicable environmental laws and regulations and the environmental importance of adhering to such procedures.
- Promptly correct any practice or condition not in compliance with this policy.

The City's Public Works and Utilities staff is under a continuing obligation to evaluate, refine, and improve all aspects of this Policy. All employees and those persons working on behalf of the Department are expected to comply with the spirit as well as the letter of this policy.