



Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's Sustainability Policy

As a national leader in wastewater treatment and regional leader in watershed protection the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) is committed to carrying out its mission through policies, practices and programs that focuses on environmental, economic and social sustainability for current and future generations. By embracing sustainability as an overall core value and operational philosophy, the MMSD can focus its' services and processes to preserve the natural environment and reduce the amount of consumption, waste and emissions generated.

Therefore:

The MMSD has adopted an Environmental Sustainability policy (**Commission Policy 1-11.04 Environmental Sustainability Index: Date Issued 9/26/2005 Resolution: 05-116-9**) which affirms it's commitment to act as an environmental steward for the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds through the pursuit and establishment of policies, programs, and practices that are focused on environmental sustainability. To carry out this role as an environmental steward, the MMSD shall focus its services and processes toward the preservation of natural resources and the investment of resources to ensure capacity and infrastructure committed to pollution control.

Commitment:

1. The MMSD shall continue with and look to improve current Environmental Sustainability programs.
2. The MMSD shall continue to encourage research in the areas of new and emerging technologies and means and methods to improve current services and processes.
3. The MMSD shall continue to take a strong leadership role in finding cost-effective regional solutions for watershed protection and preservation.
4. The MMSD shall continue programs of outreach and education within the communities and to interested groups and organizations on the importance of environmental sustainability and what individual communities and citizens can do.
5. The MMSD shall examine all aspects of its daily business functions to ensure that policies, programs and practices reflect a sustainable program.

Philosophy of sustainable policies, practices, programs and projects

The MMSD is dedicated to sustainable practices in all facets of its day to day functioning; this spans the range from that of its own employees' activities and the management of its facilities to the implementation of the larger capital improvement program. The foundation for MMSD's sustainability philosophy are its policies, practices and programs that: Encourage and optimize the use of renewable, recyclable, eco-friendly materials; Reduce energy consumption and emissions from fossil fuels, and; Have a positive impact on the region's economic, social and environmental resources while maintaining the desired level-of-services in a financially responsible manner.



Concepts and Principles guiding MMSD's sustainable policies, practices, programs and projects

A series of larger picture, broad-based concepts and principles forms the guidance of MMSD's philosophy on sustainable policies, practices, programs and projects. Although far-reaching and global in character, these concepts and principles guide MMSD's regional mission to preserve and protect the natural environment and reduce the amount of consumption and waste, while providing effective and efficient services. Many of these same concepts and principles are widely accepted from both a national and international perspective.

1. Sustainable policies, practices and programs/projects promotes values, behaviors and decision making that accounts for the needs (economic, social and environmental) of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
2. Sustainable policies, practices and programs/projects utilize means, methods and materials that balances consumption and utilization of both natural and man-made resources within the limits of what is ecologically achievable but in a socially accountable and environmentally responsible manner.
3. Sustainable policies and practices requires that the adverse impacts on the quality of the natural systems from implemented programs/projects are minimized so as to not endanger the atmosphere, the waters and the land (soils) that supports the earth's biodiversity.
4. Sustainable policies require that renewable, recyclable resources and energy efficient, minimally-polluting technologies and practices are widely utilized in day to day activities so as to take into account the ecosystem-wide effects of consumption/exploitation and the life-cycle of such practices/programs/projects.
5. Sustainable policies and practices requires that the rate of depletion of non-renewable resources should be considered and attempts be made to utilize these resources in the most productive, beneficial way possible to forestall or avoid complete exhaustion of those resources.
6. Economic and fiscal policies/resources must also be sustainable, allowing future generations the ability to also flourish and grow in a sustainable manner. Economically sustainable policies and actions have societal implications by creating stable employment and revenue generating conditions while providing equitable and effective services.
7. Social sustainability includes cultural and educational aspects of a society and its way of living. Education is of great importance to societal advancement and is an investment in inter-generational progress and stability.
8. In summary, sustainable policies, practices and programs/projects when fully integrated into day-to-day operational decisions and activities not only have a positive effect locally or regionally but they have far-reaching national and international/global significances which considers the overall health and well being of the natural ecosystem including humankind in an interdependent, holistic manner.