

Onondaga County Directive	ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE MANUAL	
	SUBJECT: County Environmental Protection Directive	
	SUPERCEDES: Executive Orders dated: 5/5/1993 and 6/30/1998	PAGE: 901.00
	SIGNED: <i>Jeanne M. Mahoney</i> County Executive	DATE: 10.14.09

DIRECTIVE: The County of Onondaga views protection of the environment as a fundamental obligation and priority. Environmental compliance requirements confronting local government are increasing not only in volume but also in technical difficulty and cost. Local government, in general, has become increasingly susceptible to the imposition of sanctions under environmental laws and regulations. Planning and decision making has become more difficult as County departments are forced to deal with the environmental law implications of their actions. The County has determined that it can best meet this challenge by establishing a clear directive on environmental compliance and stewardship.

Each and every department, board, agency, and commission of the County of Onondaga under the County Executive's jurisdiction shall be a responsible steward for the natural resources under County management and to give all due consideration to the environmental implications of the County's actions in planning and decision making at all levels by:

1. Maintaining a clear policy to protect the environment;
2. Establishing a management structure within County government to provide oversight and direction on environmental concerns and to monitor environmental compliance planning and performance;
3. Maintaining open and constructive dialogue with regulatory agencies, businesses, industries, and local governments;
4. Periodically assessing the effectiveness of this County environmental directive.

PROCEDURE: The County will be a responsible steward for the natural resources under County management by identifying and protecting sensitive natural systems for which the County is directly responsible and by working cooperatively with federal, state, and community organizations to further mutual goals for natural resource protection. All county departments are responsible for, and will continue to be in compliance with, the requirements of all environmental laws and regulations.

The further development of County environmental policy and the process in which it becomes carried out will be the responsibility of the County Office of the Environment in consultation with the County Environmental Coordinating Committee. The Environmental Coordinating Committee will consist of representatives of the County Law Department, Health Department, Department of Water Environment Protection, Department of Transportation, Parks and Recreation Department, Division of Emergency Management, and such other County departments as might be deemed necessary and/or beneficial. The Director of the Office of Environment will act as the chair of the Environmental Coordinating Committee, which will develop and, with the approval of

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the County Executive, implement strategies to meet the County's environmental objectives, including those set forth as follows:

1. Establish directives and procedures to standardize and more effectively and efficiently manage the County's environmental compliance activities
2. Reduce the extent to which County activities require regulatory oversight through the use of pollution prevention concepts
3. Examine the environmental compliance directives and procedures of County departments and provide assistance in their development and/or enhancement as appropriate
4. Help promote and organize environmental awareness and training programs
5. Investigate environmental incidents involving the County.
6. Identify and evaluate emerging environmental issues
7. Coordinate the County's response to community environmental issues
8. Report regularly to the County Executive and County Legislature on the status of the County's environmental management concerns.