

What is Certifiably Green Denver?

The Certifiably Green Denver Program provides education and recognition for environmental achievement. Our free services are available to any business in the City and County of Denver.

Certifiably Green Denver offers:

- Assessments to identify water conservation and energy-efficiency options
- Information and assistance to meet your business needs
- Public recognition for your environmental efforts

Why Participate?

Compliance - Proper management practices help minimize wastes, reduce downtime, and keep you in compliance with regulations.

Cost Savings - Less waste means lower disposal and operating costs. Efficient use of materials, water, and energy saves money.

Public Image - Superior environmental practices affect your image with customers, the community, and regulatory agencies.

Public Recognition!

Certifiably Green Denver publicly recognizes certified businesses through free advertising. This includes Internet listings and advertising in the newspaper, magazines, radio, and water bill inserts. Certified businesses receive a framed certificate and window decal.

What is an Environmental Policy?

If you're looking to be a Certified Green Business, or just looking to be more environmentally conscious, an Environmental Policy Statement helps define and communicate your organization's environmental goals. They can range from short and simple to a more in-depth explanation of your plans to be more sustainable.

A good environmental policy should answer these 3 questions:

1. What are you committing to?
2. What are you going to do to meet that commitment? **and**
3. Why is that commitment important to your organization?

Work with other employees to develop an environmental policy that works for all of you. Brainstorm ideas on what your organization's goals should be and how you plan on achieving them. Consider your organization's different stakeholders (customers, employees, community) and how they might affect your goals.

Some things that can be mentioned include:

- Waste Management Plans
- Energy and Water Conservation Plans
- The importance of your organization's environmental impact

Not sure where to start? Review the policies below to get ideas on how to craft your policy.

The City and County of Denver's Environmental Policy:

The City and County of Denver (CCD) is dedicated to working with our partners towards an environmentally, economically and socially strong future. Our organization and employees are committed to sound business practices, policies, actions, and programs that:

- *Conserve energy and natural resources*
- *Prevent pollution*
- *Meet or exceed all legal requirements and voluntary commitments*
- *Continually improve, evaluate, and communicate performance*

This policy shall be communicated to all employees, individuals working on behalf of or under the direction of CCD or one of its agencies, and others operating on CCD premises. Each is accountable for following this policy and reporting any environmental, health, or safety concern to the Mayor's Office or to management of the applicable CCD agency.

University of Colorado Boulder Environmental Policy:

Purpose:

In keeping with its mission, CU-Boulder is committed to providing an educational model for fiscally sound, environmentally responsible stewardship of the campus and its resources. The institution intends to maintain its reputation as a proactive leader in the environmental sciences and campus sustainability. The campus values choices and decisions that reduce the environmental impacts of its actions. Compliance with the law is required. Environmental education and participation in campus environmental programs are encouraged.

Policy Statement:

CU-Boulder strives to proactively manage how it impacts the environment, while responsibly managing the resources provided to the campus. As a leader in environmental issues, UCB's policy is to be responsible in protecting the environment and natural resources. We are committed to:

- *Complying with sound environmental practices, including the commitment to meet or exceed applicable legal and other requirements.*
- *Properly managing wastes and pollution.*
- *Managing our processes, our materials and our people in a way that considers the environmental impacts associated with our actions.*
- *Striving for continual improvement in our environmental management system.*

Many organizations post their environmental policies online. Check the websites of organizations you admire or see the examples below:

The National Institute of Standards and Technology
www.nist.gov/public_affairs/envpolicy.cfm

Apple Inc.
images.apple.com/environment/reports/docs/EHS_policy2013.pdf

The Walt Disney Company
www.thewaltdisneycompany.com/citizenship/policies/environmental-policy

Ted's Montana Grill
www.tedsmontanagrill.com/about_sustainability.html

Helpful Resources

See the Certifiably Green Denver website for more helpful resource sheets:
www.denvergov.org/CGD

Visit us on Facebook!

<https://facebook.com/cqdenver>

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