



Halifax Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Policy

Who We Are....

For over 250 years, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce has been a leading voice for business. The first Chamber established in North America, the Halifax Chamber strives to contribute to making Halifax an ever more attractive city in which to live, work and conduct business. Maintaining this balance is essential to a vibrant and competitive future. Today, the Halifax Chamber represents approximately 1700 member companies employing more than 90,000 people - over half of the city's workforce.

What We Believe...

The economy and the environment are interdependent – a healthy economy requires a healthy environment - to have a healthy environment, we need a healthy economy. To that end, that Chamber defines its role as:

- Encouraging and supporting members to green their business
- Advocating that government support the environment and the green economy
- Raising awareness regarding green business
- Leading by setting an example to members by filtering all Chamber business decisions through the following sustainability filter:

Halifax Chamber of Commerce Sustainability Filters

Sustainability is defined as... 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own social, economic, and environmental needs worldwide'.

(Source: Brundtland Commission)

Sustainability Principle #1

Purchasing: The Halifax Chamber of Commerce will aim to purchase products and services that have the least possible impact on the earth.

Favour	Avoid
Re-usable, recyclable and recycled material	Disposable, non-recyclable materials
Energy efficiency and power from renewable and secure sources	Fossil fuel power, energy inefficiency, insecure energy sources
Purchasing policy which supports the sustainability policy.	Traditional purchasing policies which ignore the impact on the planet.



Sustainability Principle #2

Operations: The Halifax Chamber of Commerce will aim to operate its business in a way that has the least possible impact on the earth.

Favour	Avoid
Supporting travel for employees which has the least impact on the earth.	One employee in a vehicle when possible, unnecessary travel, travel re-imbursement that rewards single occupancy vehicle travel.
Supporting waste disposal practices which encourage recycling, composting and reducing.	Trash receptacles only as option for waste disposal in the office and at events.
Organizing green events.	Events which produce unnecessary waste and use excess energy.

Sustainability Principle #3

Advocacy and Communications: The Halifax Chamber of Commerce will aim to develop policies which support people, the planet and profits and communicate those policies to stakeholders.

Favour	Avoid
Incorporating sustainability filters into work plans.	Work plans that do not consider the triple bottom line (people, profit, planet).
Communication and annual review of the sustainability policy to the Chamber Board at the Annual offsite meeting.	Developing a static sustainability policy that is not communicated to Chamber Board and stakeholders.

Sustainability Principle #4

Continuous Improvement: The Halifax Chamber of Commerce will strive for continuous improvement of sustainable practices and engagement of staff concerning new process and products.

Favour	Avoid
Continually setting and reaching sustainability goals, which will accompany this policy.	A stagnant sustainability policy that is not accompanied by goals and reviewed twice a year.
Involving staff on creating sustainability goals and making changes regarding sustainability principles and goals to staff.	Setting sustainability goals and making changes to the sustainability policy without staff input.