## Ecological Sustainability

# Purpose

To consider the impact on ecological sustainability of all our decisions. To look beyond the co-op to the future of our species and the planet to recognize our interdependence, and to look inside the co-op to ensure the health, safety and comfort of members.

# Policy

**View Court will:**

1. Strive to eliminate our community's dependence on non-renewable resources and reduce wastefulness.

2. Strive to eliminate our community's exposure to substances that have negative impacts on humans or our environment. (2007-4-24)

# Procedures

Strategies refer to each policy by number, first assessing our current situation and second suggesting a way forward. Examples for some strategies are included below.

**Policy 1. Assessing where we are:**

* [**identify wasteful practices**](http://viewcourt.vcn.bc.ca/eco-sustainability/identify-wasteful-practices)
* review strategic plans, policies and procedures to ensure adherence with green policy
* identify ecological sustainability [**indicators**](http://viewcourt.vcn.bc.ca/eco-indicators) and establish benchmarks
* research LEEDS and other standards for tools

**Moving forward:**

* increase the thermal efficiency of the building [**using repair and renovation opportunities**](http://viewcourt.vcn.bc.ca/eco-sustainability/thermal-efficiency)
* educate and facilitate members ability to reduce, reuse, recycle, and refuse
* encourage cost and resource sharing as a way to enhance ecological sustainability

**Policy 2. Assessing where we are:**

* identify harmful substances
* identify harmful practices
* identify safe alternatives

**Moving forward:**

* improve indoor environmental quality through ventilation, exhaust, and choice of materials
* provide alternative substances and products for members
* educate members to encourage healthy, safe practices

**Examples:**

1. review strategic plans, policies and procedures to ensure adherence with green policy. *(eg. boiler selection )*
2. identify ecological sustainability indicators and establish benchmarks *(eg. hydro, gas, water usage)*
3. improve indoor environmental quality through ventilation, exhaust, and choice of materials *(eg. use low or no VOC [smelly!] paints)*
4. provide alternative substances and products for members *(eg. always buy Energystar appliances, low-flow toilets)*
5. educate members to encourage healthy, safe practices *(eg. bike maintance bee)*