



**EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN
MUNICIPALITY**

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

FINAL

Table of Contents

	Page
Definitions	1
1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	3
2. EMM ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT	4
3. VISION OF THE EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY	5
4. LEGISLATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES	6
5. GENERAL POLICY PRINCIPLES	8
5.1. Conservation of Natural Resources	8
5.2. Environmental Education and Awareness	9
5.3. Infrastructure, Development and Service Delivery	10
5.3.1. Land Use	10
5.3.2. Human Settlements	11
5.3.3. Service Delivery	11
5.3.4. Roads and Stormwater Management	12
5.3.5. Dolomite	12
5.3.6. Economic Development	13
5.3.7. Municipal Health Services	14
5.4. Reduction and Prevention of Pollution	14
5.4.1. Waste Management	15
5.4.2. Air Quality Management	15
5.4.3. Noise Control	16
5.4.4. Water Quality Management	17
5.4.5. Energy Efficiency and use of Renewable energy	17
5.5. Environment Governance	18
6. THE WAY FORWARD	19

Appendices: APPENDIX "A" Relevant Legislation

EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Definitions

Sustainable Development:

Sustainable Development means the integration of social, economic and environmental factors into planning, implementation and decision-making so as to ensure that development serves present and future generations.

Source: National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)

Environment:

The word "environment" means different things to different people. Therefore, it is necessary to define it. For the purpose of this policy, "environment" refers to the environment as defined in the National Environmental Management Act, i.e. the surroundings in which humans exist and that is made up of:

- *The land, water and atmosphere of the earth;*
- *Micro-organisms, plant and animal life;*
- *Any part or combination of the above and the interrelationships among and between them; and*
- *The physical, chemical, aesthetic and cultural properties and conditions of the foregoing that influence human health and well-being.*

Source: National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) was established in 2000. The municipality covers a vast area, some 1 912km². The EMM incorporates a diversity of land uses, including residential, agricultural, natural open spaces, industrial and commercial areas. The growing needs of an increasing population have resulted in a growing demand for development and resulting impacts on the environmental resources. The EMM recognises that, although development must be economically and socially acceptable, it is imperative that the development challenges facing the EMM be addressed in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The challenge for environmentally sustainable development within urban areas has led to the need for strategic planning processes to be implemented at local government level. An environmental policy forms part of this planning process. The environmental policy will form the foundation from which all departments within the EMM can develop a medium and long-term environmental management strategy. This policy will make environmental issues and environmental sustainability an essential part of all decision-making processes, the development of strategies and programmes, the development and planning of land use and the management of resources and activities.

1.1. What is a Policy?

A policy can be defined as a "purposive course of action" based on accepted societal values. The definition has two main components, namely:

- *"purposive", which implies a point of departure (i.e. what is the concern or issue the policy is needed for) and an outcome (i.e. what is the desired end result); and*
- *"course of action", which implies action (i.e. what needs to be done) and actors (i.e. who needs to do it).*

(Source: Common Ground Consulting. 1998. An overview of Durban's Environment. Durban Metropolitan Environmental Policy initiative)

An environmental policy is a set of guidelines and principles of action for managing and protecting the environment. The policy also sets a target level of environmental responsibility and performance required against which all subsequent actions will be judged.

(Source: Bohwleki Environmental. 2005. Tshwane Integrated Environmental Policy. City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality.)

1.2. What is the Purpose of the Policy?

The development of a policy for the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality is a statutory mandate and responsibility placed on Local Governments to ensure a safe and healthy environment to those living and working within their area of jurisdiction.

The purpose of this policy will be:

- To spearhead sustainable development
- To improve the governance function of the municipality
- To create environmental awareness within the municipality
- To enhance a safe and healthy environment
- To direct sustainability and responsible decision-making

2. EMM ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality in delivering services to the community strives to maintain and promote sustainable environmental management by carefully blending ecological, social, and economic considerations into our future planning and decision-making processes. The Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality will balance the interests of the present with those of future generations, and ultimately, will strive to reduce the environmental impacts of current operations, activities, products, and services.

Within the framework of our Environmental Policy the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality commits to:

- Comply with all applicable international conventions, national environmental legislation and policies, regulations, codes of practice, and other environmental requirements to which the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality subscribes. To achieve and maintain compliance, to develop and maintain environmental management systems for identifying relevant requirements and for monitoring performance of related activities.
- Protect and manage the environment, conserve resources, minimise asset losses, improve our environmental performance, minimise environmental impact; improve health, prevent pollution, encourage avoidance, reuse and recycling, conserve our natural resources and proactively reduce environmental impact.
- Improve the quality standard of the environment through partnerships with community organisations, government agencies, customers and Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs).
- Foster openness and communication with all stakeholders in order to share relevant information, contribute to the development sustainable solutions, and respond in a constructive and timely manner.
- Implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) to enhance and improve the environment within the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality.

3. VISION OF THE EKURHULENI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY

The vision and mission of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality (EMM) is as follows:

- Vision:
The smart, creative and developmental city

- Mission:
Ekurhuleni provides a sustainable and people centred developmental services that are affordable, appropriate and of high quality. We are focused on social, environmental and economic regeneration of our city and communities, as guided by the principles of Batho Pele and through the commitment of a motivated a dedicated team.

The EMM identified seven strategic development priorities they include the following:

- Promoting Good Governance
- Fighting Poverty and Underdevelopment
- Urban Renewal
- Job Creation
- Safety and Security
- Partnership against HIV/Aids
- Enhancing Public Participation

In terms of the Ekurhuleni Growth and Development Strategy 2025, the milestones identified for the Environment are the following

- A clearly defined and functional open space network:
 - Open space plan to be finalised by 2007.
 - 50% of open space system to be developed by 2015.
 - 100% of open space system to be developed by 2025.
- All development to be guided by an EMF:
 - EMF's for the entire Ekurhuleni area to be in place by 2006.
- Measurable decline in land, water and air pollution :
 - Pollution monitoring systems to be in place by 2010.
- Measurable increase in the utilisation of alternative energy sources:
 - Strategy to be in place by 2010.
- Substantial environmental improvement in the mining belt:
 - Implementation of Hloekisa project to commence by 2006.
 - All mine dumps/slimes dams with economically viable mineral content to be removed by 2025.
 - All other mine dumps/slimes dams to be rehabilitated to acceptable standards by 2025.
- Integrated and sustainable protection of natural resources:
 - Wetland conservation strategy and programme to be in place by 2007

4. LEGISLATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The EMM has a major responsibility towards the environment in its area of jurisdiction and must ensure that the environment is managed in a sustainable manner that will not be harmful to the health and well-being of the residents. This environmental policy has been developed to direct the EMM's activities and programmes in terms of environmental considerations, thereby promoting sustainable development within EMM

The EMM's environmental responsibilities are underpinned by national legislation and policies. The Bill of Rights, contained within Section 24 of the Constitution, states that everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to his or her well-being and the right to an environment protected for current and future generations. The Constitution also states that the objectives of local government include the promotion of a safe and healthy environment.

Applicable Environmental Legislation lays down principles that Organs of State must take into account when making decisions affecting the environment, namely that development must be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable and that environmental management must address human needs.

In South Africa, municipalities are compelled to adhere to relevant environmental implementation plans, management plans and principles when environmental policies are formulated or when other programmes and plans including Integrated Development Plans (IDP's) or Strategic Development Frameworks (SDF's) are established. It is the duty of the local government to strive to ensure that municipal services are provided to the community in a financially, socially and environmentally sustainable manner and that they must promote a safe and healthy environment within the municipal area and beyond.

Environmental considerations must be taken into account to enable sustainable development, including the need to protect ecosystems, the "polluter-pays" principle, the precautionary principle, the preventative principle, waste avoidance and minimisation, re-use and recycling, extended producer responsibility and effective public participation.

The general objective of environmental management is to identify, predict and evaluate actual and potential impacts on the environment, socio-economic conditions, cultural heritage and their associated risks and consequences. This section also provides for the identification of alternative options for the avoidance and mitigation of activities with a view to minimising negative impacts while maximising benefits and promoting compliance with the principles of environmentally sound management.

Every local authority is required to take all necessary, reasonable and practical measures to maintain a safe, hygienic and clean district at all times and to prevent the occurrence of any nuisance, harmful or unhygienic condition.

A list of relevant legislation is included in Appendix A.

5. GENERAL POLICY PRINCIPLES

5.1. Conservation of Natural Resources

As natural habitats are reduced as a result of the increased demand for development, the biodiversity and natural resources of EMM are threatened. Therefore, the EMM requires an integrated environmental strategy to ensure that development is undertaken in a manner that sustains biodiversity and natural resources in the EMM, and is socially beneficial.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to ensure the long-term sustainability of the EMM's natural resources through the protection and management of renewable and non-renewable resources and biodiversity.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Ensure integrated planning and management and the optimal use of renewable and non-renewable resources.
- Ensure the sustainable use of agricultural land and resources in the EMM.
- Conserve and manage the cultural and heritage resources in the EMM.
- Promote the protection and conservation of biodiversity and natural resources in the EMM and in so doing, promote the protection of red data species habitats.
- Promote the conservation and protection of the Blesbokspruit in terms of the requirements as laid down in the Ramsar Convention.
- Manage water resources in an integrated manner in order that the quantity, quality and reliability of water is guaranteed as a right and set aside as a reserve.
- Strive to increase the area under formal protection for conservation purposes.
- Ensure the development and implementation of an alien plant management plan.
- Ensure that all applicable legislation and policy is considered and followed in land use planning and development.
- Ensure that the EMM policies are aligned with GDACE priorities in terms of conservation and protection of natural and other resources.
- Provide for and manage an effective open space system in the EMM in order to ensure long-term survival of habitats and to sustain the range of services that open spaces provide to humans and the eco-systems.

5.2. Environmental Education and Awareness

Education and public awareness is an integral part of sustainable development and an important part of a community's understanding of the environmental impacts and how these relate to their actions. Lack of knowledge by industry and community members can cause the degradation of the environment. The empowerment of industry and communities with regards to the environment not only enables them to understand what may be wrong and how they can rectify this, but also enables understanding and appreciation, which in turn leads to a desire to conserve and protect the surrounding environment.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to promote environmental education and awareness that enhances the understanding of environmental rights, responsibilities and the protection and appreciation of the environment.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Ensure environmental education and capacity building that enhances environmental literacy on an ongoing basis throughout the EMM.
- Ensure that environmental training and education is culturally and gender sensitive and responsive to the needs of the target audience.
- Ensure that education and training initiatives are preceded by an effective needs analysis process and that program development takes life-long learning, adult education principles, where applicable, and outcomes-based education into consideration while utilising international best environmental practices.
- Promote the implementation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, Local Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals through education and awareness programmes and workshops.
- Build and strengthen partnerships in environmental education between local government and existing community environmental education organisations and networks.
- Encourage the active involvement of business and industry in environmental education and awareness programmes for employees, local communities and the broader public.
- Build and strengthen partnerships with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and business partners through establishment of Environmental Forums within EMM.
- Observe, promote and celebrate days of environmental importance.
- Ensure that the public and business sectors are educated in the need to comply with relevant environmental legislation, policies and regulations.
- Ensure that environmental terminology is made accessible and understandable to all.

5.3. Infrastructure, Development and Service Delivery

5.3.1. Land use

Land is the most important resource available for development in the EMM. The growing population and the increasing demand for development and associated infrastructure are intensifying the pressure for land to be made available for residential, agricultural, industrial and recreational uses. Appropriate planning of land use zones to meet this demand can assist in achieving a quality urban environment that provides for environmental, social and economic needs.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to ensure the sustainability of the EMM through the integration of environmental, social and economic principles in all spatial development planning processes.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by EMM:

- Communicate planned land uses as identified within the spatial planning programmes and strategies of the EMM effectively to communities and industry.
- Undertake planning in the EMM in a regional context in order to facilitate integration of environmental management within the areas.
- Ensure that appropriate specialist studies regarding geological constraints (i.e. dolomite areas), environmentally sensitive areas and high potential agricultural areas are undertaken during environmental impact assessments, and land use planning.
- Ensure the management of existing developments with regards to geological constraints.
- Develop a policy to guide the development of undeveloped land within the EMM, while understanding that open spaces have a valuable role to play in the EMM.
- Implement programmes to address the unsustainable use of land and open spaces (i.e. the loss of open space, loss of moderate to high potential agricultural land, illegal dumping and rehabilitation of degraded derelict lands).
- Promote initiatives to control mining and other activities with negative impact and address the rehabilitation of degraded mining areas.
- Promote urban greening and urban agriculture.

5.3.2. Human Settlements

Adequate affordable and sustainable housing with access to services and facilities is one of the most basic needs for the health and well-being of residents within the EMM.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to ensure that the need for housing and associated services is met in a way which minimises impacts on natural resources and promotes sustainable development while improving the quality of life of the inhabitants.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Promote clean, healthy, safe and efficient living environments, which take communities, their needs and the surrounding environment into account.
- Creation and promotion of sustainable human settlements.
- Manage uncontrolled urban expansion, which threatens the resources of the EMM, by working towards creating a more compact metropolitan area.
- Promote the use of energy, water and material efficient building designs and alternative energy sources.

5.3.3. Service delivery

The growing population is placing an increasing demand on the need for housing and associated services such as water reticulation, refuse removal, sewerage, electricity and roads. A lack of adequate services results in many problems especially regarding water pollution and health issues.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to ensure the provision of basic municipal services in a sustainable manner.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- To enable an integrated planning approach for and delivering of energy services
- Diversifying the energy supply and increasing renewable and cleaner energy sources.
- Provide waste removal services in all areas to address illegal dumping, as a short term approach, with waste avoidance, re-use and recycling as the medium term objective. The long term goal must be zero waste.
- Ensure that the provision of water and sanitation services are in line with set standards and criteria, which must be grounded on sustainable principles.

5.3.4. Roads and Stormwater Management

The provision of good roads and stormwater systems combats erosion and possible flood damage during high rainfall events. It also ensures proper access to the community to provide important services such as waste collection,, health services and public transport. The EMM acknowledges the importance and advantages of an adequate stormwater management system, as it will assist in maintaining a suitable quality of inland water, maintain biodiversity and ensure the protection of human health.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to ensure the provision of adequate road infrastructure and stormwater management systems in a way that reduces negative impacts on humans and natural resources and promotes sustainable development.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Promote appropriate transportation systems which reduce environmental impacts while increasing mobility for all.
- Promote the continued improvement of the streets and intersections within the EMM through maintenance, construction and traffic engineering management.
- Promote effective development planning to include appropriate and adequate stormwater management infrastructure for existing and planned developments.

5.3.5. Dolomite

More than 40% of the geographical area of Ekurhuleni is underlain by dolomite for which existing and future development on areas underlain by dolomite create imperative demands on development and maintenance cost of services. The standard of services, both new and existing services, which EMM allows today, will have a bearing and lasting effect on the formation of sinkholes for future generation.

The overarching goal is to ensure that the EMM adopted a policy for the management and control of the dolomitic problem within the EMM.

The following objectives should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Manage development on dolomitic land and thus help reduce the incidence of people living in high risk areas

- Manage infrastructure in dolomitic areas with a view to minimizing potential triggering mechanisms which may result in the development of dolomite related subsidence.
- Identify and priorities areas where infrastructure requires repair or upgrading.
- Identify appropriate areas for future development.
- Ensure through proper planning and management to minimise the risk to life and property in existing areas.
- Ensure through proper planning and management to reduce medium to long-term expenditure on crisis service repairs and sinkhole rehabilitation.
- Reduce the likelihood of permanent pollution of the underlying dolomite aquifer and the potential for spreading related diseases.
- Ensure through proper planning to reduce water loss from water bearing services.

5.3.6. Economic Development

The economy plays a crucial role in sustainable development. A growing economy provides employment and income for the area. The economic development of the city is important for social equity and environmental sustainability. Positive economic activity can enhance the quality of people's lives by funding goods and services, such as sustainable housing, safe energy, healthy water supply, sanitation, waste management and education. Economic activity, wealth and poverty all have an impact on the environment and, therefore, must be considered in environmental management.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to ensure that environmental sustainability influences economic development in the EMM and promotes global competitiveness, provides jobs, aids in reducing poverty and improves living and business environments while avoiding unsustainable and consumption patterns.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Give due care and consideration to human health and environmental impacts when planning economic activities.
- Promote economic activities and infrastructure that enhances the quality of the environment.
- Provide post compliance incentives for business, industry and parastatals to improve their environmental performance, including green buildings and procurement.
- Develop and implement a sustainable framework for urban agriculture and other community initiatives.

5.3.7. Municipal Health Services

In order to prevent communicable disease and to reduce the negative impact on the health of communities, it is important that an integrated municipal health service strategy be developed and implemented.

The overarching goal for this principle is to ensure the linking of environmental intervention to the Health and well being of the communities with an aim of mitigating environmental impact.

The following objectives should form the basis of an environmental strategy to be developed for EMM: -

- Integrate environmental health with Primary Health Care Services.
- Identify diseases linked to the environmental factors and providing intervention to mitigate them.
- Investigation of environmental related notifiable medical conditions.
- Promotion of clean in door air quality and ambient air quality management.
- Education and intervention to control vectors.
- Ensure safe food supply to the communities.
- Surveillance of premises to ensure health and safety.
- Intersectoral collaboration with other environmental management disciplines on issues of waste management, chemical safety and disposal of the dead.
- Promotion and implementation of environmental health education programmes linked to health issues.

5.4. Reduction and Prevention of Pollution

The EMM environment is currently impacted by various pollution sources and large quantities of gaseous, liquid and solid hazardous and non-hazardous waste. This pollution impacts on the water, land and air with the attendant negative health and social impact.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to promote appropriate management and prevention of pollution in accordance with the relevant National guidelines and regulations in order to maintain a healthy environment.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Improve the quality of the environment and human health by adopting the principle of pollution avoidance and prevention planning.

- Ensure the appropriate avoidance, reduction and management of the transportation and handling of hazardous substances.
- Promote the assigning of clear responsibilities for pollution avoidance and management practises.

5.4.1. Waste Management

Currently, large quantities of gaseous, liquid and solid hazardous and non-hazardous waste are produced by human activities within the EMM. The appropriate avoidance and disposal of this waste is essential to the maintenance of a healthy environment.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to ensure that the principle of avoid, reduce, reuse, repair and recycle is implemented in order to promote the avoidance and minimisation of waste and that appropriate waste management strategies are developed and implemented.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- To strive to reduce the amount of waste that is created and disposed of in the EMM.
- Ensure the correct management of all landfill sites, including all Hazardous Waste landfill sites.
- Co-operate with national and provincial government in encouraging industry and other producers to work towards eliminating production and transport all waste in accordance with the principles of the National Waste Management Strategy including hazardous waste.
- Promote waste avoidance, minimisation, re-use and recycling initiatives.
- Ensure the correct management and rehabilitation of old and closed landfill sites.
- Promote the cooperation with national and provincial government in encouraging industry and other producers to work towards eliminating the production and transport of all, waste, including hazardous waste in accordance with the principles of the National Waste Management Strategy.

5.4.2. Air Quality Management

Clean air is one of the basic requirements for human health and well-being. Air pollution is caused by the emission of gas, vapour and particulate matter into the atmosphere as a result of human activities and, on occasion, natural activities (such as veld fires).

The **overarching goal** of this principle is to improve, manage and monitor the air quality in the EMM.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Development of an Air Quality management Plan in terms of the National Environmental Management; Air Quality Act and subsequent legislation.
- Take actions to achieve and sustain acceptable air quality levels throughout the EMM with the view to constant improve the air quality.
- To avoid and minimise the negative impacts of air pollution on health, well-being and the environment.
- To promote the reduction of greenhouse and other gases so as to support the council's climate change protection programme.
- To reduce the extent of ozone and other depleting substances in line with national and international requirements.
- To promote cleaner production and continuous improvement in best practice as it pertains to air pollution avoidance, prevention and minimisation.
- To promote energy efficiency within all sectors including industrial, commercial, institutional, mining, transportation and domestic energy use.

5.4.3. Noise Control

An important issue within the EMM is the impact of noise pollution on the local residents. Infrastructure such as major roads, railway lines and airports including the Johannesburg International Airport impose large constraints on development in terms of the noise they create.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to avoid, reduce, manage and monitor noise disturbances and nuisances within the EMM.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Implement the noise policy and noise guidelines in consultation with all relevant authorities and stakeholders.
- To ensure the avoidance and minimisation of noise pollution in the EMM.
- Ensure that land use and development take noise contours into cognisance.
- Ensure that land use planning is guided by the relevant noise standards and legislation.
- Ensure that environmental impact assessments for new developments with potential noise impacts include an appropriate assessment and mitigation measures for implementation.

5.4.4. Water Quality Management

The quality of water resources is inherently affected by discharges into the systems. Potential sources of water pollution within the EMM include excess mine water, acid mine drainage, industry, waste disposal sites, sewage treatment works, urban development, stormwater, informal housing developments and agriculture.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to improve, manage and monitor the water quality in the EMM.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- The identification and controlling of pollution sources (point and diffuse sources) that impact negatively on the water quality of both surface and ground water resources, with a view to avoiding such pollution.
- Promote the investigation and implementation of appropriate mechanisms to minimise and improve the quality of urban run-off in existing and planned developments.
- Promote the development of a coordinated and consolidated water quality monitoring programme for the EMM.

5.4.5 Energy Efficiency and use of Renewable energy

Energy powers homes, transport systems, industry, infrastructure and commerce. The availability of abundant, cheap power in the form of fossil fuels has enabled societies to develop machines and systems that can enhance the quality of human life and increase the efficiency and productivity of our work. Concerns are growing about the environmental and social impacts of the heavy reliance on the consumption of fossil fuels, which include air pollution, global warming, waste disposal, land degradation and the depletion of natural resources. As a consequence of these concerns, attention has been focused on ways of saving energy in both supply and use. Energy management offers the opportunity to reduce the adverse environmental impacts of energy use.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy use in the EMM.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- The development of an energy strategy for EMM
- To promote energy efficiency and renewable energy use within all sectors including industrial, commercial, institutional, mining, transportation and domestic energy use
- Identification and implementation of appropriate mechanisms to improve energy efficiency

5.5. Environmental Governance

Governance issues must be dealt with in terms of the requirements of the Constitution. In terms of the Act, Government is constituted as national, provincial and local spheres. Responsibilities in terms of governance and management of various environmental issues are stipulated in the relevant environmental legislation.

The **overarching goal** for this principle is to create an effective, appropriately resourced and harmonised institutional framework able to facilitate the implementation of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality Environmental Policy.

The following **objectives** should form the basis of an Environmental Strategy to be developed by the EMM:

- Ensure the implementation and development of an Environmental Management System (EMS) by all Departments within the EMM to ensure prioritisation, improvement and monitoring of environmental performance and compliance with relevant environmental legislation, regulations and policies.
- To ensure that all EMM Departments make adequate budgetary provisions for environmental responsibilities and activities.
- Ensure the development of green procurement policy
- Encouraging waste prevention, recycling, market development and use of recycled/recyclable materials through lease agreements, contractual relationships and purchasing practices with vendors, contractors, businesses and other service providers.
- Encouraging the purchasing of goods and services that will have the least possible impact on the environment during their life cycles.
- Generate less waste material by reviewing how supplies, materials and equipment are manufactured, purchased, packaged, delivered, used, and disposed.
- Environmental considerations must be given equal weighting along with other aspects when selecting preferred suppliers, goods or service providers.

- Ensure the development and enforcement of environmental bylaws to control, manage and enforce environmental compliance.
- To ensure that all safety and security issues relating to the enforcement of environmental legislation, policies, procedures, bylaws, crime prevention through environmental design, etc be dealt with in consultation with the Department Public Safety vis-à-vis the Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department (EMPD).
- Improve co-operative governance both internally within the departments of the EMM and externally, e.g. financiers, industries, NGO's and other relevant organisations including those relating to mining, agricultural land and development planning etc.
- Ensure the incorporation of environmental legislation, regulation, procedures and policy into planning.
- Ensure compliance with international Conventions, Treaties and Protocols, e.g. the Ramsar, Basel Conventions and Kyoto Protocol
- Ensure compliance with and implementation of all relevant Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment policies, e.g. the agricultural, waste, energy and conservation policies.
- Ensure that Integrated Environmental Management Principles and methods are considered in development planning and plans for the use of natural and cultural resources.

6. THE WAY FORWARD

The EMM Environmental Policy is an overarching document that aims to guide the EMM towards sustainable development within a sustainable economy (Figure 1). The EMM Environmental Policy will provide a framework for the various departments of the EMM to realign existing strategies, plans and policies and to develop new strategies, plans and policies to ensure compliance with and implementation and enforcement of the goals outlined in the EMM Environmental Policy. Each EMM Department will be responsible to appropriately budget for the funding required to meet the goals and objectives of the policy and to implement those applicable to their functions.

The policy should be integrated into the key performance areas of all the municipal departments and should be highlighted during the implementation of the Growth and development strategy.

An environmental policy working group needs to be established to clearly identify all EMM Departments' role in development and implementation of environmental strategies identified by the environmental policy.

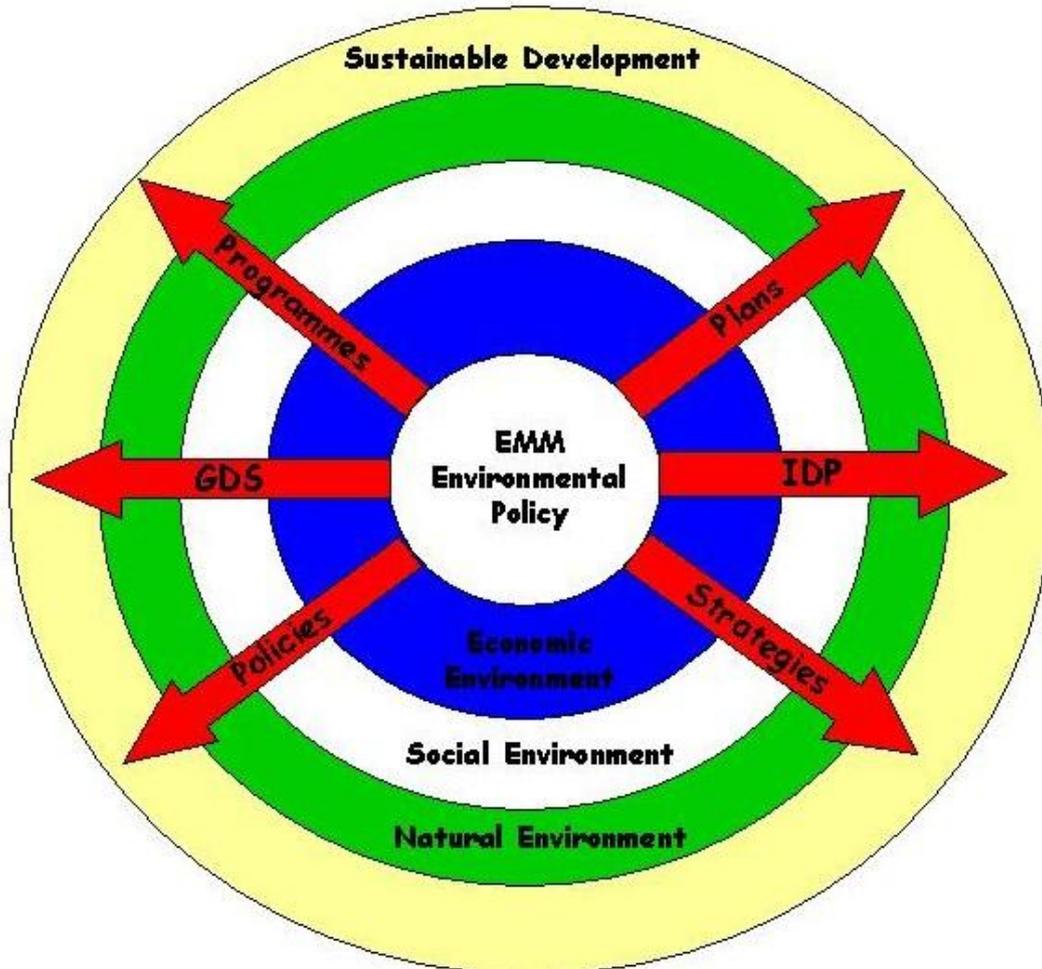


Figure 1: The EMM Environmental Policy is an overarching document that aims to guide the EMM towards sustainable development. The EMM Environmental Policy will endeavour to inform the various programmes, plans, strategies and policies developed by the EMM, taking the economic, social and natural environment into account in order to achieve the end goal of sustainable development

APPENDIX A

RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996);
- The Environment Conservation Act, 1989 (Act No. 73 of 1989), as amended;
- The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998)(NEMA);
- The National Environmental Management Amendment Act, 2003, (Act No. 46 of 2003);
- The National Environmental Management Amendment Act, 2004, (Act No. 8 of 2004);
- The Environment Conservation Amendment Act, 2003 (Act No. 50 of 2003);
- The Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (current drafts);
- The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004);
- The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act. 2004 (Act No 57 of 2003);
- The Development Facilitation Act (DFA), 1995 (Act No. 67 of 1995); and
- The Gauteng Spatial Development Framework (GSDF); and
- The Intergovernmental Relations Framework Bill (2004).
- Urban Development Boundary (by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Affairs), that is the land uses within the UDB and outside UDB.
- Gauteng Planning and Development Acts, 2003 which when comes into operation will repeal the Local Government Ordinance act no 17 of 1939, the townships ordinance act no 15 of 1986.
- National Water Act, no 36 of 1998
- Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act 28 of 2002
- National Heritage Resources Act, no 25 of 1999
- Occupational Health and Safety act 85 of 1993
- Atmospheric Pollution Prevention act 45 of 1965
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation, Environment and Land Affairs Development Guidelines for Ridges.