



# **Decatur Environmental Sustainability Board**

*-Description-*

## **Section 1. Establishment of a Decatur Environmental Sustainability Board.**

A City of Decatur Environmental Sustainability Board is established to provide recommendations to the City Commission regarding the city's environmental regulations, plans, and initiatives as well as assisting with implementation of city projects that impact the natural environment to protect and improve the quality of life for citizens and property owners in the City of Decatur. This board would assume the duties of the existing Waste Management Advisory Board and the Greenspace Commission, as well as fulfill the requirements for the establishment of a Stormwater Management Advisory Board.

The Environmental Sustainability Board should provide advice and recommendations regarding the following:

- 1) Local Food Policies
- 2) Solid Waste & Recycling
- 3) Environmentally Sustainable Procurement policies
- 4) Global Warming
- 5) Energy Conservation and Use
- 6) Protection of natural resources including waterways, watersheds and greenspace
- 7) Environmentally Sustainable Building policies
- 8) Urban Forest Management
- 9) Implementation of the City of Decatur's stormwater management master plan, including compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act, NPDES stormwater permits and regulations of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Division of Environmental Protection, as applicable.
- 10) Environmental guidelines and recommendations of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

## **Section 2. Membership Qualifications and Terms.**

The Environmental Sustainability Board shall consist of nine (9) members appointed by the City Commission. Board members should have expertise in professional fields and interests such as:

- Planning
- Stormwater Engineering or Development Natural Environment
- Biology
- Marketing
- Real Estate
- Legal
- Fundraising
- Architecture
- Project Construction
- Research
- Forestry
- Energy Conservation



Members of the Board shall demonstrate interest in support for the efficient and effective implementation of the goals and mission of the City's environmental program. Board members shall serve without compensation.

The City Commission shall appoint Board members to a term of three (3) years. The terms of the original members may be staggered so that all terms do not expire simultaneously. Vacancies shall be filled only for the remainder of the unexpired term of the vacant position.

### **Section 3. Officers.**

The Board shall elect one member to serve as chair and to preside over its meetings, and shall create and fill such offices and sub-committees as it may deem necessary. The term of the chair and other officers shall be one (1) year, with eligibility for re-election to succeeding terms.

### **Section 4. Charge and Responsibilities of the Environmental Sustainability Board.**

The Environmental Sustainability Board is charged with the following responsibilities:

- 1) Assist city staff with development and implementation of an environmental sustainability plan that encourages the reduction of solid waste and energy consumption, the conservation and enhancement of the City's tree canopy, modern stormwater management, opportunities for active living, the acquisition of greenspace and similar approaches to sustainable living.
- 2) Provide recommendations regarding the implementation of the City's urban tree management plan and plan for tree bank funds.
- 3) Provide recommendations in all subject areas of environmental sustainability.
- 4) Assist city staff in working with stakeholder groups to implement program objectives and activities.
- 5) Assist city staff with public education and outreach activities that promote environmental sustainability.
- 6) Provide recommendations for internal program evaluation and reporting, and assist City staff in periodically reporting to the City Commission on program effectiveness.

### **Section 5. Meetings.**

The Environmental Sustainability Board shall establish a regular monthly meeting schedule. Special called meetings may occur more frequently. All Board meetings shall be open to the public, and reasonable notice of the time and place thereof shall be given in accordance with City of Decatur policies and State law. The Board shall keep a record of its meetings, including attendance of its members, and its findings, recommendations, and actions.



### **Section 6. Meeting Attendance.**

Any member of the Board who misses more than three (3) consecutive meetings shall lose his or her status as a member of the Board, and shall be replaced or reappointed by the City Commission. Absence due to sickness, death, or other emergencies of like nature shall be recognized as excused absences and shall not affect the member's status on the Board.

### **Section 7. Quorum and Voting.**

A quorum of the board shall consist of a simple majority. The vote of a simple majority of a quorum shall be necessary to take any official board action.

### **Section 8. Public Comment.**

A public comment period shall be allowed at each meeting to allow citizens the opportunity to be heard regarding environmental issues and concerns. The method, timing and duration of such public comment period shall be determined by the Board. The Board may resume conducting its business once the public comment period is closed.

### **Section 9. Staff Liaison.**

The staff liaison for the Board shall be designated by the City Manager and may consist of multiple persons as deemed necessary. The staff person(s) or a staff designee shall attend all Board meetings.