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## Commitment Statement

“The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission will assess economic, environmental, and social impacts of decisions and ensure the integrity of decisions made regarding programs and operations to provide for current needs while allowing future generations to meet their needs.”

## Principles of Office Sustainability

### 1. Provide sustainable services to our clients

A commitment to sustainability should extend out to programs and services provided by RPC as well as encourage changes with in the office environment.

### 2. Conserve energy and water

This includes the materials used as well as the ongoing operation of the building.

### 3. Minimize negative impacts on indoor air quality

Staff can spend at least eight hours a day in the office. The quality of the air they breathe is important to both short-term and long term health. Paint, carpets, furniture and other office items can release volatile organic compounds (VOCs), formaldehyde and other emissions, as well as exposing staff to toxins and allergens. Health and safety, occupational health and other building regulations may also be relevant here.

### 4. Reduce consumption, then reuse, recycle, and minimize

Reducing waste at its source means deciding if you actually need a product at all, and looking for ways in which to reuse existing products - getting more from less. Using recycled products is also likely to use less energy and fewer valuable raw materials than buying new.

### 5. Minimize pollution of air, land and water

Minimize pollution by ensuring product specifications, legal compliance and best practice standards are met - during the installation, operation, maintenance and disposal of the products.

## **6. Encourage environmental stewardship by suppliers and manufacturers**

Some manufacturers are prepared to take responsibility for the environmental impacts of their products throughout their manufacture, distribution, operation, maintenance and disposal. The RPC can help promote this approach by asking for details of product composition, manufacturing processes including energy and water use, packaging take-back schemes, and disposal options - and using this information when deciding between different products.

## **7. Ensure durability**

A durable product with an extended life is generally more resource efficient. Look for quality products with replaceable or upgradeable parts. You may need to balance this against other factors such as the inclusion of materials with high adverse environmental impact (eg, adhesives or synthetics).

## **8. Use renewable, sustainably harvested natural materials, and consider biodiversity protection**

Use products with certification from the Forestry Stewardship Council, Green Seal or some other widely recognized eco-label. Products from local sources should also be given great consideration for use.

## **9. Minimize the use of toxic and hazardous materials**

These materials can be minimized if sustainable alternatives are specified as being desirable.

## **Criteria for a Sustainable Office**

### **Economic Criteria**

- cost per workplace (as low as possible)
- work productivity (as high as possible)
- long term planning, risk minimization, risk management

### **Environmental Criteria**

- Material-efficiency, Energy-efficiency, Space-efficiency
- Hazardous substances and emissions,
- Re-use, Recycling possibilities, Waste and Disposal,
- Transport and Mobility

### **Social-ethical Criteria**

- healthy work environment, physical and psycho-social
- fair Wages, Quality of Jobs:
- socially responsible corporate culture
- social infrastructure and services