Draft Comprehensive Environmental and Sustainability Policy for Villages, Towns & Small Cities

The (Town, Village, City) of ____________, recognizing the responsibility of governmental institutions to address issues of climate, sustainability, environmental health and economic well-being at a local level, and to fulfill its mission to protect, maintain and improve the quality of life for all residents, hereby adopts the following policy:

1. **Energy**: We endeavor to reduce our use of non-renewable energy sources through conservation, and to increase our use of renewable energy sources whenever practical.

2. **Purchasing**: We seek to purchase goods or services that reduce the use of energy and pollution in their manufacture, use and disposal; have lower transportation costs; contain sustainable and/or bio-based ingredients; do not contain ingredients known to be harmful to humans; and that are shipped in biodegradable or recyclable packaging.

3. **Green Cleaning**: We endeavor to clean and maintain town facilities with products that are free from known or suspected toxins.

4. **Sustainable Building and Development**: We encourage the preservation of open space, the renovation of existing structures over virgin development, and the construction of residential, commercial and institutional structures which reduce their impact on the environment.

5. **Land Management**: We endeavor to manage municipal properties so as to maximize natural recycling and minimize environmental pollution.

6. **Water Conservation**: We seek to reduce our use of water in and around
municipal facilities, and encourage the careful conservation and protection of our water supplies.

7. Transportation: We seek ways to minimize the environmental impact of our transportation system, encourage the use of alternative transportation modes and sustainable fuels, reduce or eliminate pollution from town-owned vehicles and reduce idling of all motor vehicles.

8. Recycling: We encourage and support recycling of materials at town facilities and among our residents.

9. Environmental Toxins: We endeavor to reduce exposure to environmental toxins in the workplace and in our community through consumer education and the collection and proper disposal of hazardous material.

10. Communications: We seek to inform our employees and citizens of this and all other environmental and sustainability policies and programs through written and electronic communications.