



nelson mandela bay
M U N I C I P A L I T Y

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS	IV
DEFINITIONS	V
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK	4
3. POLICY PRINCIPLES	7
4. POLICY OBJECTIVES	9
5. POLICY APPLICATION	9
6. SPECIFIC MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES	10
7. IMPLEMENTATION	15
8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	16
9. TOOLS	20
10. POLICY COMMENCEMENT	21
11. POLICY REVIEW	21

ABBREVIATIONS

CETT	Corporate Environmental Impact Assessment Task Team
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMF	Environmental Management Framework
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EMS	Environmental Management System
ESP	Environmental Sustainability <i>Policy</i>
GHG	Greenhouse Gas or Greenhouse Gases
GHGI	Greenhouse Gas Inventory
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
IEM	Integrated Environmental Management
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IWMP	Integrated Waste Management Plan
MDTTT	Multidisciplinary Technical Task Team
NEMA	National Environmental Management Act
NMBM	Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality
NMMOSS	Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Open Space System
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SMMEs	Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

DEFINITIONS

In *the Policy*, unless the context indicates otherwise,

“Council” refers to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Council.

“Environment” means the surroundings within which humans exist and is comprised of:

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

“Municipality” means the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, a Category A municipality established by Part 2 of Schedule 1 of Notice 85 in the Eastern Cape Provincial Gazette No. 654 on 27 September 2000, promulgated in terms of Section 12(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act 117 of 1998, for the municipal area described in such Notice. The abbreviation ‘NMBM’ also refer to the Municipality, unless otherwise indicated in the context of the text.

“The Policy” means the Environmental Sustainability Policy of the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

“Sustainable” in the context of the Policy, refers to a state, product, service or process that can be maintained at a specific rate or level.

“Sustainability” in the context of the Policy, refers to the extent to which a state, product, service or process is sustainable. Sustainability is often associated with an action or decision regarding the exploitation of resources and the use of those resources in the creation of a product or service.

“Sustainable Development” in the context of the Policy, refers to the integration of environmental, social and economic considerations in all that we do so as to ensure our development activities serve present generations, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 *The Policy* outlines the vision, priorities and commitments of the Municipality, in respect of the management of the *environment* in the area of its jurisdiction.
- 1.2 In the context of this Policy, the *environment* includes not only biophysical components, but also the interactions between residents, employees, resources, assets and functions of the Municipality. Therefore, the *environment* is also the surroundings which municipal activities take place in.
- 1.3 All municipal services and activities utilise resources, it is therefore necessary to understand that unsustainable resource exploitation creates unsustainable conditions that threaten long-term ecosystem integrity and ultimately leads to a lower quality of life for citizens.
- 1.4 Hence, *the Policy* is focused on the overall *sustainability* of municipal services, and not solely on the natural *environment*.
- 1.5 *The Policy* applies to all service delivery mandates, from planning to implementation. It provides a framework from which environmentally conscious decisions and action plans can be developed and serves as a strategic guide to direct the Municipality towards its vision for *sustainable development*. *The Policy* further promotes integration of various municipal service departments in order to entrench cooperative, inclusive and efficient actions. Ultimately, the provision of municipal services must be performed within a *sustainable development* framework.
- 1.6 The first Environmental Policy for the Municipality was created in 2004. The second version of *the Policy* was adopted in 2012. This version is the third iteration of the policy.

1.7 **Function of the Environmental Sustainability Policy**

- 1.7.1 *The Policy* represents the *Municipality's* vision for, and its commitment to, practising and promoting *sustainable development* in the day-to-day execution of duties, which have an impact on the *environment*.
- 1.7.2 The Municipality is committed to providing services in a sustainable manner, and fulfilling national and international environmental obligations. *The Policy* is the first key strategic step in guiding municipal strategies, plans and actions to address environmental concerns. *The Policy* forms part of a process of continual environmental improvement. *The Policy* further intends to provide guidance to all inhabitants of the Municipality, including those with a civic responsibility to be a custodian of the *environment*.

1.8 **The Situational Context of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality**

- 1.8.1 NMBM incorporates the city of Gqeberha, the towns of Kariega and Despatch, and their surrounding peri-urban areas. NMBM contributes 41, 81% of the province's Gross Geographic Product (NMBM Built Environment Performance Plan 2018-2019).
- 1.8.2 The *Municipality* is a national and international tourist destination famed for its mild weather, water sports and being an access point to the Garden Route. This diverse setting is home to approximately 1.12 million diverse people. However, high unemployment rates of 35% for the first quarter of 2020 (ECSECC) subsequently exacerbated by COVID-19 also characterise this growing city.

The NMBM is located in the western regions of the Eastern Cape Province, on the shores of Algoa Bay. It is bordered by 110 km of coastline, which includes two island groups, sandy beaches, two ports and a wealth of marine life. The coastal zone of NMBM represents a substantial transport and tourism hub, and contributes significantly to the economic performance of the municipality and region as a whole.

- 1.8.3 The large Swartkops and Sundays Rivers are two of the most significant rivers, which flow through the geographical area. Pollution and the cultivation of alien plants are threats to the integrity of the Swartkops River System.
- 1.8.4 Wetlands are also found within the municipal area, providing a multitude of ecosystem services such as habitats for riparian wildlife, flood attenuation, water purification and aesthetic landscapes. The increase in demand for urban developments, erosion and water abstraction or diversion are some of the pressures placed on these freshwater features.
- 1.8.5 NMBM is floristically extremely diverse, being located in the eastern extreme of the Cape Floral Kingdom. Dominant vegetation biomes include Fynbos and Sub-tropical Thicket. The area represents a unique convergence of five biomes (out of the nine biomes found in South Africa). The attractions of the metropolitan area are collectively promoted under the “Five Biome City” and the “Responsible Tourism” campaigns, initiated by the tourism agency of the Municipality. This biodiversity is a strong attraction for the tourism and residential sectors. The value of this diversity cannot be over-emphasised, nor can the importance of the conservation thereof.
- 1.8.6 Fauna (animal life) is well represented both on and offshore and up to nine species of whales, dolphins and seals are found along the coast. The NMBM borders the Groendal Wilderness Area and the southern section of the National Addo Elephant Park.
- 1.8.7 The pressures, which the natural environment face, include urban expansion and urban sprawl, overgrazing, mining, inappropriate fire management and alien plant infestation. Hence, there is a strong need to correctly conserve and manage the remaining *environment*. Regrettably, approximately one third of the natural *environment* has already been lost due to urban expansion, cultivation, overgrazing, mining and alien plant infestation. The grassy fynbos systems, which comprise four vegetation types, are the most impacted upon by urban expansion. Formal housing typologies, typically

one-story developments on individual erven, as well as informal human settlements also affect natural habitats.

1.8.8 Climate change will also affect municipal service delivery and present risks and opportunities for sustainable development. The risks to the NMBM from 2016 to 2095 include temperature pattern changes, wind pattern changes, decrease in average rainfall, increases in the frequency of droughts, increased flood intensities, sea level rise, higher probabilities of storm surges and fire pattern changes. It is crucial for the NMBM to prepare for these risks and create opportunities from the green and blue economy.

1.8.9 When the municipality is exposed to risks from environmentally unsustainable practises (such as the over-reliance on paper for printing), or the impacts of climate change (such as drought or floods), the resilience of the city to actual events or future events is minimized. The resilience of the city is therefore important and can be strengthened by the application of the specific responsibilities outlined in Section 6 of this policy.

2. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

2.1 Numerous national legislations address environmental management in some form or other, however there are certain key Acts that drive environmental management in South Africa. *The policy* will function as a tool to guide the NMBM towards fulfilling the requirements of this legislation. Key legislation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Section 24 of the Constitution of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996) guarantees everyone the right to inter alia “an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being” and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations.
- b) The National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) (NEMA) (as amended) defines the environment, and other key terms such as public participation, sustainable development, and pollution. It also presents key National Environmental Management Principles, one of

which is “the polluter pays” principle, which is one of the principles of this Policy.

- c) The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations of 2014 (as amended in 2017), including Government Notices R983, 984, and 985 (as amended in 2017), regulate the procedures and criteria of Chapter 5 of NEMA.
- d) The National Environmental Management: Waste Management Act (Act 59 of 2008) (as amended), prescribes the management of solid and liquid waste for municipalities, but also opens channels for waste recycling and reuse to be realised as economic opportunities.
- e) The National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act (Act 39 of 2004) controls and manages air pollution, and lists priority greenhouse gases (GHG) for monitoring.
- f) The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (Act 10 of 2004) provides for the conservation and management of South Africa’s biodiversity.
- g) The Integrated Coastal Management Act (Act 24 of 2008) provides for the integrated and coordinated management of coastal zones by all spheres of government.
- h) The Disaster Management Act (Act 57 of 2002) as amended requires a disaster risk assessment for an organ of state to include risks posed by, inter alia, the threat of climate change and other environmental hazards.
- i) The National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999) provides for the protection of heritage resources, of which the environment is a part. Some traditional cultures utilize water bodies for spiritual practises and rites of passage, while other cultures require naturally biodiverse open spaces for their spiritual or heritage needs.
- j) The National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) provides a legal framework for the sustainable management of all water resources. It recognises that water is a scarce commodity and belongs to all the people of South Africa.
- k) The Municipal Systems Act (Act 32 of 2000) requires that local authorities provide services in an environmentally sustainable manner

and requires local authorities to compile development and sector plans that address these issues.

- l) The Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act (Act 16 of 2013) (SPLUMA) contains requirements for spatial planning mechanisms to utilise densification approaches in order to reduce sprawling development. More compact, densified and efficiently serviced developments can reduce land footprints, prevent the destruction of biodiverse environments and promote efficiency in transport systems.
- m) The Bioregional Plan (Gazetted in 2014) for the Municipality is the chief legislative tool, which prescribes land uses for land parcels within the city. First gazetted in 2008, this tool identifies valuable areas in terms of biodiversity and biodiversity functioning and places requirements for land use on those areas.
- n) Municipal by-laws that are relevant to the protection of the environment and health and well-being of citizens, such as the Public Amenities By-Law and the Stormwater By-Law, amongst others.

2.2 Other guiding frameworks, strategies, plans and international guidelines include, but are not limited to the following:

- o) The Climate Change Response Policy of South Africa 2011.
- p) The National Development Plan 2030.
- q) The National Strategy for Sustainable Development and Action Plan (NSSD1) 2011-2014.
- r) The Nelson Mandela Bay Climate Change and Green Economy Action Plan Action Plan 2015.
- s) The Organization for International Standardization's (ISO) standard for Environmental Management Systems (EMS), which is titled ISO 14001:2015. This standard prescribes the requirements for an organization's environmental Policy.
- t) The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 7 (ensuring environmental sustainability).
- u) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

3.1 Vision for the Environment

3.1.1 NMBM's vision for key aspects of its *environment* is:

- a) A society well aware of its *environment* and the importance thereof.
- b) A healthy *environment* that is managed in a manner that balances both its biophysical needs as well as the human development needs of present and future generations.
- c) Basic services provided for all.
- d) A growing economy and reduced unemployment.
- e) *Sustainable* water resources and a *sustainable* potable water supply for all.
- f) A society acknowledging the challenges of climate change and which accordingly prioritises energy efficiency and renewable energy generation.
- g) A society that recognises the services provided by the many facets of the natural *environment* and the value thereof.
- h) Safe, secure and tourist-friendly *environment* for all, including coast and beaches.
- i) Comprehensive waste management that encourages and facilitates waste minimisation, waste diversion and recycling.

3.2 Environmental Principles

3.2.1 International conventions, the Constitution and environmental legislation such as the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) define general guiding environmental principles, which are to underpin all actions as civilians and civil servants. The *Municipality* is committed to adopting and implementing these and other key principles, which include the following.

3.2.1.1 *Sustainable development*. integrating environmental, social and economic considerations in all that we do to ensure our development activities serve present generations, without compromising the ability of future generations

to meet their needs. To achieve *sustainable development*, the *Municipality* is committed to adhering to the seven key principles of the Local Agenda 21 to which South Africa is a signatory. These include:

- a) Integration of social, economic and environmental issues;
- b) Adopting a multi-sectoral approach;
- c) Concern for the future;
- d) Working within ecological limits;
- e) Ensuring transparency and developing partnerships with civil society;
- f) Linking local issues with global impacts; and finally
- g) Striving for equity, justice and accountability.

3.2.1.2 Healthy environment: Ensuring the right of all South Africans to an environment that is not damaging to their health and well-being, as defined in the Constitution, is protected.

3.2.1.3 Protecting the environment: Ensuring our *environment* is protected through preserving biodiversity and our cultural heritage, reducing waste, and preventing pollution.

3.2.1.4 Legal compliance: Complying or exceeding the requirements of all local, provincial, national and international legislation, and those conventions and protocols to which South Africa is a signatory. The *Municipality* is also accountable for enforcement of its local legislation.

3.2.1.5 Efficient use of natural resources: Ensuring that our natural resources are used in a sustainable manner, which protects them for future generations.

3.2.1.6 Holistic approach: Considering all aspects of the *environment*, including all potential impacts of our actions, be they cumulative, direct or indirect.

3.2.1.7 Precautionary approach: Applying a risk averse and cautious approach that recognises the limits of current knowledge regarding environmental impacts and the consequences thereof.

3.2.1.8 Polluter pays: Ensuring that the cost of environmental pollution, including all remediation, is borne by those responsible for causing the pollution.

3.2.1.9 Public participation: Involving civil society in the decision-making process about the *environment* in the *Municipality*, and collaborating with the public to realise appropriate management thereof.

3.2.1.10 Environmental awareness: Furthering awareness of NMBM employees and the general public regarding all environmental management issues.

- 3.2.1.11 Integrated planning and decision-making: Ensuring integrated environmental management is part of NMBM's decision-making and planning at all levels, including policies, plans, programmes, and operational functions, in and across all sectors. All sectoral strategies or plans should consider *the Policy* and adopt it.
- 3.2.1.12 Continuous improvement: Ensuring that we are continuously looking for better ways of doing things, and that our environmental performance continuously improves as a result thereof.
- 3.2.1.13 Best Practical Environmental Option: Ensuring that in decision-making, the Best Practical Environmental Option (BPEO) is considered.

4. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 *The Policy* represents the NMBM's commitment to fulfilling these responsibilities where reasonably practicable by:
- a) Preventing pollution and minimizing waste;
 - b) Responding to climate change threats and opportunities by either mitigating climate change or adapting to climate change;
 - c) Encouraging the *sustainable* use of resources and the promotion of *sustainable* or green procurement;
 - d) Protect the natural biodiversity of the geographical area in order to support ecosystem integrity;
 - e) Providing environmental awareness to all employees of the NMBM thereby promoting custodianship of the *environment*.

5. POLICY APPLICATION

- 5.1 *The Policy* is applicable within the geographical boundaries of the NMBM and covers all activities within its control and those that could be reasonably influenced by its involvement.
- 5.2 *The Policy* is integrated, cuts across a range of sectors and functions, and serves as an implementation tool for all Directorates in the NMBM. Its key principles are to be cascaded to every category of employee in the NMBM.

5.3 While *the Policy* is of particular value to those executing the responsibilities of the NMBM, it is a public document and of relevance to all within the Nelson Mandela Bay area including civil society.

6. SPECIFIC MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 The creation of *sustainable development* and the protection of the natural *environment* are spread across different municipal directorates. Different environmental goals and commitments will be addressed per sector (i.e. area of work that could be shared by different municipal directorates).

6.1.1 Biodiversity and Conservation

6.1.1.1 To ensure that biodiversity within the Municipality is conserved in a sustainable manner, for present and future generations, the municipality endeavours to:

- a) Protect terrestrial biodiversity and key habitats and ecological processes.
- b) Protect the marine and coastal environment through the management of Marine Protected Areas and legal enforcement.

6.1.1.2 To ensure that biodiversity within the Municipality is conserved in a *sustainable* manner, for present and future generations, the municipality endeavours to:

- c) Protect terrestrial biodiversity and key habitats and ecological processes.
- d) Protect the marine and coastal *environment* through the management of Marine Protected Areas and legal enforcement.
- e) Adhere to the Biodiversity Act No. 10 of 2004, regarding biodiversity control and vegetation management.
- f) Implement legal tools such as the Bioregional Plan (Gazetted in 2014).
- g) Partner with civil society and academic institutions in research and conservation action.

6.1.2 Water Resources

6.1.2.1 To ensure as far as possible that water resources in NMB are *sustainable* for both the natural *environment* and human needs, the *Municipality* endeavours to:

- a) Ensure the long-term provision of clean, potable water for all.
- b) Protect surface and groundwater resources and manage the extraction of groundwater resources.
- c) Protect, and where necessary, restore the ecological integrity of natural aquatic systems such as rivers, lakes, streams and the ocean. This can be achieved via adequate storm water controls, adequate sewage system maintenance and the prevention of water pollution.
- d) Minimise all forms of water wastage to ensure water use efficiency is maximised.
- e) Implement low-energy and alternative water provision mechanisms, such as rainwater harvesting, storm water harvesting, recycled or reclaimed water in the facilities under the control of the *Municipality*.

6.1.3 **Air Quality and Noise**

6.1.3.1 To minimise the impact of air and noise pollution on people and the natural environment, NMBM endeavours to:

- a) Develop the appropriate structures, systems, and capacity within the NMBM to manage air quality and noise issues.
- b) Monitor the release of Green House Gases (GHG) into the atmosphere
- c) Combat noise pollution and its impact on developed areas

6.1.4 **Renewable Energy and Climate Change**

6.1.4.1 To proactively respond to the challenge of climate change by implementing appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures, the Municipality endeavours to:

- a) Develop the appropriate structures and capacity within the NMBM to manage the challenge of climate change.
- b) Improve public awareness of energy and climate change issues in NMBM.
- c) Fulfil the local obligations that South Africa has committed to as signatories of international agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.
- d) Encourage efficient energy use and “low carbon” practices wherever possible and practical.

- e) Encourage technologies that minimise the release of GHG harmful to the atmosphere including reducing emissions from vehicles utilised by the municipal fleet.
- f) Respond to the challenge of sea level rise through informed coastal planning.

6.1.5 **Waste**

6.1.5.1 In order to manage waste effectively in line with the National Waste Management hierarchy, the Municipality endeavours to:

- a) Provide a waste management service within NMBM.
- b) Realise waste prevention and minimisation.
- c) Recycle, including within the operations of the *Municipality* itself.
- d) Prevent illegal dumping.
- e) Utilize appropriate waste management practices and practise law enforcement.

Work with other levels of government, non-profit organizations, small to medium enterprises, and the private sector to realise the above.

6.1.6 **Heritage**

6.1.6.1 To ensure that the heritage of NMBM, including cultural heritage and living heritage, built heritage and historical townscapes, paleontological and archaeological heritage, and significant landscapes, are both preserved and celebrated in an accessible manner, the Municipality endeavours to:

- a) Recognise our diverse cultural practices.
- b) Protect and maintain existing heritage sites, and improving these where appropriate.
- c) Consider areas of heritage value in decision making.

6.1.7 **Land Use and Planning**

6.1.7.1 The NMBM is committed to ensuring that land is used and managed optimally in a manner which improves the quality of life of all residents, and endeavours to provide sustainable human settlements by:

- a) Undertaking spatial planning that reduces urban sprawl, promotes densification, mixed-use development, and corridor developments.

- b) Integrating open spaces into planning and development, maintaining quality open spaces in all areas, and greening urban areas.
- c) Addressing illegal occupation of land.
- d) Realising inner-city rejuvenation of the main centres of Port Elizabeth, Uitenhage and Dispatch.
- e) Encouraging green buildings, *sustainable* design and development practices.

6.1.8 **Transportation**

6.1.8.1 To realise a sustainable transportation system that is safe, accessible and which minimises environmental impact, the NMBM endeavours to:

- a) Consider *sustainability* and environmental factors when planning, implementing and managing all facets of transportation under its' control.
- b) Encourage commuting by non-motorised means.

6.1.9 **Environmental Education and Awareness**

6.1.9.1 To facilitate environmental education throughout all levels of society and within the Municipality itself, the NMBM endeavours to:

- a) Encourage a culture of learning about the *environment*.
- b) Develop environmental management capacity within the municipal staff, through informal and formal training programmes.
- c) Build partnerships with government and the private sector and support the environmental education initiatives of other organisations as appropriate.

6.1.10 **Economic Development**

6.1.10.1 To realise a vibrant and sustainable local economy in NMBM resulting in increased wealth in the area and improved lives of its residents, the NMBM endeavours to:

- a) Realise NMBM as an internationally preferred destination for investors.
- b) Reduce poverty through supporting job creation initiatives.
- c) Encourage entrepreneurial activities through supporting emerging businesses and SMMEs.

- d) Prioritise empowerment of local communities through encouragement and support of job creation opportunities from recycling, upcycling and re-use enterprises.
- e) Foster an enabling *environment* for growth by, for example, providing the required infrastructure for growth.
- f) Encourage sustainable business practices and environmental performance.
- g) Implement the practice of “Sustainable Procurement” within the NMBM that considers the environmental, economic, and social factors (the triple bottom line) of goods and services in the procurement process.

6.1.11 **Environmental Governance**

6.1.11.1 To achieve effective environmental governance in all areas within its jurisdiction the NMBM endeavours to:

- a) Achieve transparent and accountable governance. Importantly, ‘Sustainability Champions’ or ‘Environmental Champions’ in the political sphere must underpin the governance.
- b) Avail the required resources, both human and financial, for the appropriate management of our environment and implementation of *the Policy*.
- c) Collect and manage environmental data and information in a manner that facilitates the effective management of the environment.
- d) Collaborate with communities to realize environmental benefits.
- e) Achieve clear, transparent communication with stakeholders and communities and ensure inclusive decision-making.
- f) Enforce environmental legislation, including the development, implementation and enforcement of by-laws. The role of law enforcement and rangers is important in the protection of nature reserves but also the protection of urban environments.
- g) Work together with other local authorities and levels of government, as well as the private sector, to ensure knowledge and skills transfer into and out of the NMBM.

6.1.12 Disaster Management

6.1.12.1 To effectively plan for, and respond to disasters, the NMBM commits to:

- a) Performing risk assessments and prioritizing risks posed to the NMBM
- b) Assessing the risks posed by climate change
- c) Developing a Disaster Management Plan for the NMBM
- d) Promoting early-warning systems and creating proactive methods for dealing with disasters.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

7.1 Implementation Commitments

7.1.1 The NMBM is committed to implementing *the Policy* by applying the principles contained therein in all decision making, strategies and plans, which will be rendered effective by ensuring:

- a) *The Policy* and its commitment to sectoral strategies and plans are adopted at all management levels of the NMBM.
- b) That appropriate resources, including financial and human resources, are made available for its implementation.
- c) *The Policy* is implemented across all NMBM Directorates and Implementation is not only the responsibility of the Environmental Management Sub-Directorate.
- d) *The Policy* is communicated to all stakeholders in *the Municipality*.
- e) The Policy is aligned with all other Municipal Strategies and policies.
- f) Sectoral strategies and plans are developed within five years of the adoption of *the Policy*. Where these already exist, they will be updated in line with the IDP review periods.
- g) The appropriate environmental management tools are utilised to achieve implementation.

8. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8.1 Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders

8.1.1 The following stakeholders are responsible for the implementation of *the Policy*:

- a) Council: to approve *the Policy* and oversee its review.
- b) Executive Mayor: to facilitate the implementation of *the Policy* by fostering relationships with other levels of government, and internationally, to achieve knowledge transfer, and to evaluate progress of *the Policy* implementation.
- c) City Manager: to ensure implementation of *the Policy* across all Directorates of the NMBM.
- d) Executive Director, Public Health: is responsible for developing the Policy; reviewing *the Policy*; for communicating and implementing programmes for its implementation; and for allocating resources for the above.
- e) Executive Directorates and Heads of Offices: All Directorates are responsible for applying the principles of the Policy in the areas of their activity.
- f) Directors and Heads of Offices: to ensure awareness of *the Policy* in their Directorates, to ensure its implementation, and to ensure that significant policy issues are communicated to the Environmental Management Sub-Directorate.

8.2 Responsibilities of key Directorates

8.2.1 Directorate: Public Health

8.2.1.1 Environmental Management

- a) Develop, maintain and implement a Biodiversity Management Plan and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Open Space System (NMMOSS) action plan for the NMBM.
- b) Address the challenge of alien invasive species in the NMBM.

- c) Maintain, increase, and continually improve municipal-designated conservation areas.
- d) Maintain and facilitate cooperative governance forums such as bilateral meetings with local authorities and the Corporate Environmental Impact Assessment Task Team (CETT) meetings for all Directorates. CETT aims to ensure the ongoing compliance with environmental legislation by coordinating comments on NMBM and private environmental authorisation applications submitted to Competent Authorities for consideration within the jurisdiction of the NMBM. The DEDEAT / NMBM meetings are meant to facilitate communication and good working relationships between the NMBM and DEDEAT, Department of Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS), and other competent authorities. Through both forums, awareness and refresher training by the competent authorities for NMBM officials occurs as and when amendments to legislation occur.
- a. Mainstream planning tools such as the Bioregional Plan into land use planning.
- e) Raise environmental awareness through NMBM education initiatives.
- f) Mobilize community involvement through environmental education initiatives in the combating of environmental degradation.
- g) Maintain and implement the Climate Change and Green Economy Action Plan for the NMBM.
- h) Continue to champion the streamlining and integration of Green Procurement or Sustainable Public Procurement in the NMBM's procurement process, to achieve *sustainability* and local economic growth. This is applicable to all directorates undertaking procurement of goods and services.

8.2.1.2 Parks & Cemeteries

- a) To sustainably 'green' the city through the development of open spaces and tree-planting in designated areas
- b) To effectively implement sustainable burial sites and promote, support and implement alternative and sustainable burial methods

8.2.1.3 Environmental Health

- a) To enforce human health standards through food control, health surveillance at premises, vector control, environmental pollution control and the management of domestic animals.
- b) Maintain and implement the NMBM's Air Quality Management Plan in line with the requirements of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act 39 of 2004.
- c) Ensure air quality and noise by-laws are relevant, up to date and enforced.
- d) Undertake meaningful meteorological and ambient air quality monitoring and maintain an emissions inventory for NMBM
- e) Maintain and implement a System of Atmospheric Emission Licensing for Listed Activities
- f) The auditing of Listed Activities on the National Atmospheric Emission Inventory System (NAEIS)
- g) Conducting noise impact assessments with regards to noise pollution

8.2.1.4 Waste Management

- a) Maintain and review an Integrated Waste Management Plan as required by the National Environmental Management: Waste Act (59 of 2008).
- b) Implement the waste objectives as highlighted in the Integrated Waste Management Plan.
- c) Prevention and minimization of waste through various initiatives
- d) Promote public awareness campaigns with civil society on the dangers of illegal dumping.
- e) Ensure waste by-laws are up to date, relevant and enforced

8.2.2 **Directorate: Infrastructure and Engineering**

8.2.2.1 Water Resources

- a) Provide a basic sanitation service to all.
- b) Manage Waste Water Treatment Works such that they operate effectively, efficiently, and that discharges meet legal requirements.
- c) Promote the use of alternative sources of water e.g. rainwater harvesting, and the recycling of wastewater.

8.2.2.2 Integrated Public Transport System

- a) Develop an effective and sustainable public transport system which is energy efficient, and through which GHG emissions are minimised.

8.2.2.3 Roads and Storm water

- a) Develop bicycle and pedestrian paths where feasible.

8.2.3 **Directorate: Electricity and Energy**

8.2.3.1 Renewable Energy

- a) Create an enabling environment for an alternative energy economy and encourage efficient energy generation through facilitation of renewable energy projects, for example, wind, solar and landfill gas initiatives.

8.2.4 **Directorate: Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture**

8.2.4.1 Heritage

- a) Develop, maintain, and implement a Heritage Management Plan for the NMBM.
- b) Raise public awareness regarding the heritage value of NMBM.

8.2.5 **Directorate: Economic Development, Tourism and Agriculture**

8.2.5.1 Economic Development

- a) Aims to ensure that NMBM is a productive and globally competitive area that has a vibrant economy and is able to address local economic challenges.
- b) Responsible for promoting economic growth, job creation and reducing poverty.

8.2.6 **Directorate: Human Settlements**

8.2.6.1 Land Use and Planning

- a) Facilitate the elimination of the housing backlog and facilitate quality housing for all in a sustainable manner.
- b) Implement land use planning that promotes integrated communities and addresses the legacy of race-based segregation.

- c) Realise sustainable communities through planning which strives for poverty alleviation, satisfaction of basic needs, and focuses on special needs groups.
- d) Be proactive in community education regarding the importance of the above principles.

9. TOOLS

9.1 Communication Tools

9.1.1 Inter-Directorate fora:

- a) These fora will be established where there is a need for addressing crosscutting issues in a coordinated manner.

9.1.2 NMBM Website:

- a) *The Policy* and any other strategic documents will be made available on the municipal website.
- b) The NMBM Corporate Strategic Document portal will also house a copy of the adopted policy.

9.2 Monitoring and Reporting Tools

9.2.1 Annual performance reporting:

- a) All relevant NMBM sectors will report on an annual basis regarding the degree to which they have implemented *the Policy*.

9.2.2 Monitoring:

- a) In order to understand environmental performance in the NMBM, regular environmental monitoring will be undertaken from which meaningful data will allow evaluation of resources.

9.2.3 Auditor General Reporting:

- a) Information on the effective application of the Environmental Sustainability Policy in organizational functions could be listed as findings within the Auditor General's reports.

10. POLICY COMMENCEMENT

10.1 The Environmental Sustainability Policy supersedes any other environmental policies adopted by Council.

10.2 The Policy will take effect on the date that it is adopted by Council.

11. POLICY REVIEW

11.1 The *Policy* will be reviewed in accordance with the NMBM Policy Development Framework review cycle and/or in accordance with environmental needs.