



Environmental Responsibility Policy

Statement of Policy

In an effort to improve public health, APHL is committed to making our facilities and behaviors more environmentally responsible. To achieve this goal, APHL will promote actions that take into account our environmental impact and encourage members and staff to do the same. Such actions will include the following:

Internally

- Educate staff members on green activities.
- Apply green principles (reduce, reuse and recycle) to office supplies and conduct when possible.
- Promote use of mass transit when commuting and on travel.

Members

- Provide a forum for laboratories to share green knowledge and practices with other member laboratories.
- Collect information as a resource for greening member laboratories.
- Promote and conduct green meetings.

Background

As the non-profit organization representing public health and environmental laboratories and, due to our vested interest in protecting human health and the environment upon which it depends, APHL is committed to addressing climate change, both at an organizational level and beyond.

Beginning at the organizational level and with this Policy, APHL's internal Green Committee will explore ways to be more environmentally responsible in our facilities. APHL will also support its members and join forces with local community efforts in addressing the future impacts of climate change.

Research demonstrates that:

- Artificial lighting accounts for 44% of the electricity used in office buildings
- Each remanufactured toner cartridge keeps 2½ pounds of metal and plastic out of landfills and conserves ½ gallon of oil

- One third of harvested wood goes to making paper, which accounts for 38% of municipal solid waste; while the Pulp & Paper industry rates as the second largest consumer of energy and uses more water to produce a ton of product than any other industry in the US
- Business computers unnecessarily waste \$1 billion a year; setting a computer to go to sleep automatically during short breaks reduces energy use by 70 percent.

APHL will strive to meet the following commitments to advance human health and environmental quality.

- Recognizing the inevitable impacts of our operations;
- Developing pro-active approaches to minimize environmental impacts;
- Conserving natural resources and reducing waste;
- Being a leader in developing and implementing good practices, as well as promoting and implementing greener technologies, and
- Supporting its members in meeting these commitments.

Implementation

Internally:

1. As an organization, take action to promote green activities, such as ordering more environmentally-friendly office supplies, providing recycling receptacles at desks and throughout the office, using digital communication when possible, and encouraging double-sided printing on documents greater than one page long.
2. While APHL does not own any facilities, we will meet with building owners, landlords and other tenants to discuss how and what green activities we can adopt.
3. Introduce and implement the concept of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle in the office environment.
4. Participate in local community initiatives, whether it's local to headquarters or to the field offices, such as Bike-To-Work Day or Car-Free Day.
5. Explore the possibility of becoming a paperless office and order/use fewer publications.
6. Increase the awareness of staff through discussion forums, outreach activities and other appropriate communication mediums.
7. APHL will follow the guidance from the *Environmental Considerations* section of the Healthy Food Policy.

Members:

1. Make organization-wide meetings as green as possible.
2. Explore ways to help member laboratories go green.
3. Increase the awareness of APHL members and partners through discussion forums, outreach activities and other appropriate communication mediums.
4. Explore the possibility of using electronic publications instead of print.

Examples of Environmentally Responsible Choices

- Recycling – Check out our handy recycling guide for help determining what is acceptable.
 - Paper
 - Plastic
 - Metal
 - Glass
- Food, Drink, Etc.
 - Use pitchers and glasses for water (vs. bottles).
 - Opt for china and silverware or, at a minimum, biodegradable products.
 - Donate uneaten food to local food banks or shelters.
 - Use bulk dispensers for sugar, salt, pepper, cream and other condiments.
 - Include vegetarian meal options.
 - Opt for locally grown and organic foods.
- Paper, Materials, Etc.
 - Reduce paper consumption by:
 - Printing double sided.
 - Using the computer to read and write documents and notes.
 - Using recycled paper.
 - Reusing scrap paper.
 - Print materials with vegetable or soy-based inks.
 - Eliminate bags and binders at meetings or use greener versions.
- Energy Consumption
 - Use mass transit when traveling and at least once a month to commute.
 - Turn off lights.
 - Take the stairs.
 - Set computers to go to sleep after a period of inactivity.
 - Turn off appliances when not in use.