

## Bemidji State University Policies

<b>Policy Name:</b> Environmental Policy	<b>Effective Date:</b> 9/1/2009
<b>Policy Owner:</b> Provost and VP of Academic & Student Affairs	<b>Last Review:</b> 4/1/2019
	<b>Next Review:</b> 9/1/2022

### Policy Statement

Bemidji State University enjoys a high quality natural setting in the northern lakes region of Minnesota. Bemidji State University is committed to excellence and leadership in protecting the natural environment.

### Scope and Purpose of Policy

The scope of this policy applies to all members of the university community. The purpose of this policy is to affirm the belief that faculty, staff and students are responsible to provide this leadership in environmental stewardship and in promoting environmental awareness, local action and global thinking.

### Definitions

Environment is defined as the conditions that surround someone or something; the conditions and influences that affect the growth, health, progress, etc., of someone or something; the natural world. (Merriam-Webster, 2013)

### Procedures

Bemidji State University will endeavor, as far as resources will allow, to improve our stewardship roles in the areas of: education (including the infusion of environmental content into appropriate curriculum), operations (including day-to-day use of resources associated with the functioning of the university), and communication (including raising environmental awareness, especially through example and modeling good stewardship practices in partnership with the broader community.)

In our general operations, Bemidji State University will strive, wherever possible, to:

1. conserve natural resources and support sustainable practices,
2. conduct affairs in ways which safeguard the environmental health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and members of the broader community,
3. reduce the generation of wastes and the use of toxic substances and promote strategies to reuse and recycle those wastes which cannot be avoided; and purchase renewable, reusable, recyclable and recycled materials.

In pursuing our educational and research missions, Bemidji State University will strive, wherever possible, to:

1. foster an understanding of and responsibility for the natural environment,
2. convey knowledge regarding environmental and health issues relevant to various academic disciplines,
3. encourage environmental research,
4. conduct teaching and research in an environmentally responsible way,
5. provide a forum for the open flow of information within the university community and the community at large regarding environmental issues and their relationships to other social issues.

**Rationale**

The rationale for this policy is to support the shared fundamental values of the university and to encourage the practice of good stewardship in doing so.

**Supporting References**

There are no supporting references for this policy.