

Letter

Needs Logo

Dear Community Members,

The City of Hendersonville and its Environmental and Sustainability Board invites you to share your sustainability practices with the community and showcase your business' commitment to a greener future! The City wants to highlight our business community efforts and how they might align with the City's goals, outlined in the City of Hendersonville Sustainability plan.

Our objective is to establish a green partnership with local businesses of all sizes to promote sustainability practices in our area.

Our vision: A thriving Hendersonville where businesses showcase the way they participate in sustainable practices where they can contribute to a cleaner, healthier environment, and help make Hendersonville a great place to live and work!

Our mission is for Hendersonville businesses to voluntarily share these practices to earn Green Partnership recognition from the City of Hendersonville.

We are looking for businesses interested in taking the lead in this initiative. Are you one of those businesses? We want to hear from you!

If you are an interested business owner, please complete the attached questionnaire.

We look forward to hearing from you!

# Questionnaire

## Needs GP and Hendersonville City Logo etc

### Hendersonville Green Partnership Questionnaire

#### Commitment to Sustainability

**1. Leadership and Responsibility**

Are you open to appointing an individual, a group of employees, or forming a "Green Team" to spearhead environmental initiatives within your organization? Or do have a designated person

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**2. Ways to Promote Environmental Awareness**

Which methods does your business currently use or plan to use to communicate its commitment to sustainability? (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Discuss eco-friendly initiatives during team meetings.
- ☐ Include environmental goals in employee performance reviews or onboarding materials.
- ☐ Highlight sustainability efforts on your website, social media, or advertising.
- ☐ Share regular tips or updates about reducing waste in internal communications.
- ☐ Set up a system for employees to propose new conservation ideas.
- ☐ Create a visible display (e.g., a digital dashboard or bulletin board) to showcase green practices.
- ☐ Track and analyze energy use, water reduction, waste and transportation metrics for ongoing improvement.
- ☐ Additional method please add

**3. Community Engagement**

How does your business connect with the local community on environmental issues? (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Participate in or seek certifications through environmental programs (e.g., LEED, state-specific green certifications, ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems, ISO 14064 Green House Gas verification).
- ☐ Develop a public environmental policy or mission statement.

- Donate usable goods, including food to local nonprofits or organizations.
- Sponsor or participate in community clean-up or conservation events.
- Provide time or incentives for employees to volunteer in eco-friendly initiatives.
- Advocate for sustainable practices to other local businesses.
- Other (please describe):

## **Waste Reduction and Recycling**

### **1. Waste Management Assessment**

Has your business reviewed waste generation and management practices in the past year?

- Yes please give a brief description
- No

### **2. Recycling and Recovery Efforts**

What materials does your business recycle or repurpose? (Check all that apply):

- Paper and cardboard
- Glass
- Plastics
- Metals (e.g., aluminum, steel)
- Electronics (e.g., computers, monitors)
- Food waste (e.g., composting programs)
- Other (please specify):

### **3. Waste Minimization Strategies**

What steps does your organization take to minimize waste? (Check all that apply):

- Encourage digital communication to reduce paper usage.
- Utilize reusable or refillable containers for supplies.
- Purchase products with minimal or recyclable packaging.
- Donate excess materials or products rather than discarding them.
- Implement a system for reusing office supplies or packaging materials.
- Other (please specify):

## **Water Conservation**

### **1. Water-Saving Fixtures**

Does your facility have water-efficient fixtures installed? (Check all that apply):

- Low-flow faucets and showerheads.
- Water-efficient toilets or urinals.
- Automatic shut-off systems for faucets or hoses.

## **2. Irrigation and Landscaping**

What water-saving measures are implemented in your landscaping practices? (Check all that apply):

- Use native, drought-resistant plants.
- Collect rainwater or use reclaimed water for irrigation.
- Install drip irrigation or similar systems to minimize water use.
- Use mulch to retain soil moisture and reduce water evaporation.

## **3. Additional Water Conservation Actions**

- Regularly inspect for and repair leaks.
- Follow a cleaning schedule that minimizes water usage.
- Educate staff on water-saving techniques.
- Other (please describe)

## **Energy Efficiency**

### **1. Energy Audit**

Has your organization conducted an energy audit within the past three years?

- Yes (Date: \_\_\_\_)
- No

### **2. Energy Efficiency Practices**

What energy-saving actions has your organization implemented? (Check all that apply):

- Upgraded to Energy Star-rated appliances or equipment.
- Installed LED lighting or other energy-efficient bulbs.
- Set thermostats to energy-saving temperatures.
- Integrated sensors or timers for lighting and HVAC systems.
- Encouraged alternative commuting options (e.g., biking, carpooling, transit).
- Other (please describe):

### 3. Renewable Energy

Does your business use or plan to adopt renewable energy sources? (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Solar panels
- ☐ Wind energy
- ☐ Purchase of renewable energy credits
- ☐ Other (please specify):

### 4. Transportation

Do you incentivize the following transportation methods? (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Carpooling
- ☐ Bicycle transport
- ☐ Public transportation
- ☐ Electric vehicle usage

### 5. Land Management

What land management practices does your organization implement? (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Use of native plants and trees on-site
- ☐ Permeable surfaces for parking areas

### Declaration

I, **[Name]**, declare that the information provided in this questionnaire accurately reflects our organization's commitment to sustainability. We strive to reduce our environmental impact and comply with applicable environmental regulations.

**Completed by:**

**Date (MM/DD/YYYY):**

# Draft Plan



## GP plan

- Roll out GP to the public.
- July 18th radio broadcast. JE on GP
- At downtown festival announce, broadcast GP August 18th
- Post questionnaire on City Web Site CG before July 18th CG
- Final edits to brochures and poster August 1st JE
- Identify key businesses interested in taking the lead in the initiative. All board members.
- Work and review GP business applicants All board members
- Build directory of GP awards. JE/CG ongoing
- Organize a Green Business Partnership event to showcase awardees. Year end?

### As we progress

- Regularly track and report on progress made by participating businesses.
  - Implement educational workshops and resources for continual improvement.
  - Foster collaboration with additional businesses and new partners.
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- Evaluation & Metrics is GP a hit or flop (Never)
  - Number of businesses joining the partnership.
  - Regular Feedback, Yearly surveys from participating businesses for feedback on progress.

# Notes

## VT Notes:

Consider asking a target business or two to review before disseminating

Use a survey platform so responses are automatically tabulated

This survey should also go out to non-profits, churches - they comprise a significant sector in our community. See Mountain True - Creation Care Alliance

<https://mountaintrue.org/creation-care-alliance-of-wnc/>

How many survey participants would you like?

The areas included are very thorough - suggest adding

~~Transportation - do you incentivize car pooling, bicycle transport, public transport, EV~~

~~Land Management - do you use native plants and trees on your site, permeable surface for parking~~

~~instead of signature - completed by, role in organization, name of organization~~

## Community Engagement

How does your business connect with the local community on environmental issues?  
(Check all that apply):

- Participate in or seek certifications through environmental programs (e.g., LEED, state-specific green certifications). *Are there any NC specific if so list*

## Leadership and Responsibility

Are you open to appointing an individual, a group of employees, or forming a "Green Team" to spearhead environmental initiatives within your organization? *Consider adding approximate time commitment - one meeting/month or 5 hrs/month??*