

POLICY: 3.3.15. (II.C.15.) **Environmental Protection**

Revised: November 7, 2013

Last Reviewed: October 14, 2016

Adopted: May 10, 2001



POLICY:

The Technical College System of Georgia [TCSG] is committed to protecting the environment while recognizing that teaching, research and service activities conducted in pursuit of the TCSG and colleges' mission may result in environmental impacts.

TCSG's goal is to reduce waste and emissions, and ensure compliance with all relevant environmental regulations. All employees and other members of the technical college community shall strive to minimize adverse impacts on the air, water, and land through pollution prevention and energy conservation. By successfully preventing pollution at its source, we can achieve cost savings; increase operational efficiencies; improve the quality of our teaching, research and services; maintain a safe and healthy workplace for our employees and students; and improve the environment. This environmental policy is based on the following guiding principles:

Preventing pollution by reducing and eliminating the generation of waste and emissions at the source shall be a prime consideration in college activities. The Commissioner and the technical college presidents shall seek to identify and implement waste minimization and pollution prevention opportunities.

Environmental protection is everyone's responsibility. The Commissioner and the presidents of the technical colleges shall communicate their environmental policies to employees and other members of the technical college community. All members of the technical college community shall be encouraged to identify and implement feasible pollution prevention and waste minimization opportunities.

Technologies and methods that substitute non-hazardous materials and utilize other source reduction approaches shall be given top priority in addressing environmental issues. Where source reduction is not possible or feasible, TCSG shall make every effort to investigate recycling as a waste management option in lieu of treatment and disposal, which shall be the least preferred waste management options.

TCSG shall strive to continually improve its environmental performance by developing and implementing tools to measure performance and provide the information necessary to establish realistic objectives for continued reductions in waste generation and energy consumption. Progress in attaining these objectives shall be communicated to employees and other members of the technical college community as well as the general public.

TCSG shall demonstrate its leadership role to the citizens of Georgia by adhering to applicable

environmental regulations while ensuring that the generation of wastes and emission of pollutants are minimized to the extent feasible. TCSG shall promote cooperation and coordination among industry, government, and the public toward the shared goal of preventing pollution at its source, by seeking new ideas for pollution prevention and waste minimization, and by sharing experiences with the general public.

RELATED AUTHORITY:

O.C.G.A. § 20-4-11 – Powers of the Board

O.C.G.A. § 20-4-14 – TCSG Powers and Duties

Environmental Compliance, Legal Developments Related to Compliance in Higher Education, A.C.E. Summary

Website for the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

Website for Environmental Protection Agency's Region 3, "Information for Colleges and Universities"

Center for Sustainable Systems