



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
OF BUNGOMA**

# **COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF BUNGOMA**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

**December, 2023**

**COUNTY ASSEMBLY SERVICE BOARD**

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## FOREWORD

In an era where the preservation of our environment and the pursuit of sustainability have become paramount, the County Assembly of Bungoma takes a momentous step forward. We proudly present the Bungoma County Assembly Environmental Management and Sustainability Policy, a living testament to our commitment to the well-being of our environment and the future of our county.

This policy is not merely a document but a profound reflection of our collective responsibility as the custodians of the unique ecological heritage that graces Bungoma County. It embodies our acknowledgment of the vital connection between our environment and our prosperity. It underscores the urgency of addressing environmental challenges, such as climate change, resource depletion and habitat loss. It also serves as a declaration of our unwavering determination to lead by example, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and sustainability.

The development of this policy is guided by the principles and guidance of the National Environment Council document of 2008 and the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA). We align our aspirations with these national standards to ensure that our efforts are in harmony with a broader vision of environmental sustainability for Kenya.

This Foreword serves as an invitation to join us in our commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. It is an acknowledgment of the work that lies ahead and the challenges we must collectively overcome. It is also a celebration of the opportunities that await us as we create a greener, more sustainable, and resilient County Assembly.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this policy. Together, we embark on a journey that will shape not only the destiny of our county but also the legacy we leave for generations to come.

**Hon. Emmanuel M. Situma**  
**Chairperson, County Assembly Service Board**



## PREFACE

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of responsibility that I introduce the Bungoma County Assembly's Environmental Management and Sustainability Policy. Our county has long been known for its natural beauty, rich biodiversity, and agricultural heritage. As the custodians of this extraordinary environment, it is our duty to protect and preserve it for current and future generations.

This policy represents our unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. It embodies our recognition of the profound interconnection between a healthy environment and the well-being of our communities. It also acknowledges the challenges posed by environmental degradation, climate change, and resource depletion.

Through this policy, we aim to embrace a holistic approach to environmental management, one that balances economic growth with ecological responsibility. We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint, conserving natural resources, and promoting sustainable practices throughout our county.

The implementation of this policy will require collective effort, collaboration with stakeholders, and continuous monitoring and evaluation. We encourage active participation from all citizens, institutions, and organizations within Bungoma County.

This policy serves as our blueprint for a greener and more sustainable future, one where we honor our responsibility as stewards of this land. It is our hope that this endeavor will inspire positive change, set an example for others to follow, and contribute to the overall well-being and resilience of our beloved Bungoma County.

As we embark on this journey, I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the development of this policy and express my profound appreciation for your commitment to safeguarding our environment. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the world we leave behind for future generations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles W. Wafula', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Charles W. Wafula

Secretary, County Assembly Service Board

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Environment:**

It is the surrounding of the CAB which will include social, economic and physical.

**Green computing or green IT:**

It is the eco-conscious approach to managing and using computer technology responsibly. It involves adopting strategies to reduce energy consumption, promote resource conservation, and address electronic waste issues within the IT industry. The ultimate objective of green computing is to harmonize technological advancement with sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

**Management:**

It is the organization and coordination of environmental sustainability activities.

**Policy:**

It refers to guiding principles for implementation of a strategy.

**Staff:**

Staff refers to all employees of the CAB.

**Stakeholders:**

Refers to individuals or organizations with which the CAB Environment Management Mainstreaming Committee works directly.

**Strategy:**

It is a set of planned activities to achieve the objectives of a policy.

**Sustainability:**

Refers to conserving an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources.

**Sustainable Environmental management:**

The way we use, conserve and enhance the community's resource so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained and the total quality of life now and in the future is secured.

## ACRONYMS

CAB	County Assembly of Bungoma.
CASB	County Assembly Service Board.
EMS	Environment Management and Sustainability Committee.
EMCA	Environment Management Co-ordination Act.
NEC	National Environment Council.
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Constitution of Kenya is quite coherent in the need to promote Environmental Management and Sustainability in Kenya. Its preamble commits the people of Kenyans to be respectful of their environment as their heritage. Kenyans are called upon to conserve their environment for posterity, and to be proud of their ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, and strive to live in peace and unity as one indivisible sovereign nation. Article 10 (2d) in particular identifies sustainability as one of the national values and principles of governance. Additionally, Article 42 provides for the right to a healthy environment for all Kenyans.

Kenya's development blue print (Kenya Vision 2030) identifies several emerging challenges in environmental management and sustainability which include environmental degradation, forestry, food insecurity, water resources, pollution and waste management, climate change, bio-technology, integrated environmental planning, and unplanned human settlement among others.

That is, environmental management and sustainability is, therefore, is a critical undertaking needed to help Kenyans realize the aspirations of our Constitution and the Vision 2030.

In the context of CAB, a number of environmental challenges abound:

- a) Solid waste and waste water management
- b) Soil and water conservation
- c) Surface/drain water management
- d) Electronic waste management
- e) Air (noise pollution) among others.
- f) Climate change impacts will always be a challenge to the CAB as reflected in:
- g) Unreliable water supplies
- h) Unreliable power/energy supplies.

### **1.1 Purpose of the Policy**

To embrace, integrate and implement the principles of environmental management and sustainability in all aspects of the County Assembly of Bungoma (CAB).

## **1.2 Policy Statement**

The County Assembly Environmental Management and Sustainability Policy aims to promote a sustainable and resilient environment for Assembly's prosperity and future generations.

## **1.3 Policy Objectives**

The objectives of the Policy are:

- a) To encourage changes in behavior that promote a more ecologically sustainable environment at CAB.
- b) To enhance CAB responsiveness to environmental management and sustainability challenges
- c) To re-orient CAB operations to promote environmental knowledge, skills, perspectives and values inherent to sustainability
- d) To build capacity and improve knowledge, skills, and leadership in line with the CAB mandate.

## **1.4 Guiding Principles**

The policy will be guided by the following principles:-

- a) Improving the quality of life for all
- b) Changing personal attitudes and practices
- c) Integrate local and global environmental sustainability issues and practices
- d) Respect for the community and conserving diversity
- e) Keeping within the earth's carrying capacity.

## **1.5 Policy Scope**

The scope of the Environment Management and Sustainability Policy of the County Assembly of Bungoma (CAB) encompasses all aspects of CAB's operations and services; this policy applies to all CAB members, employees and the broader community.

## **2.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### **2.1 Introduction**

The implementation of this environment management and sustainability policy is a priority in order for the CAB to achieve the global accolade of being a sustainable Assembly. The implementation of this policy will be guided by the mandate of the CAB,



and will embrace the environmental pillar of our vision 2030. Environment Management and Sustainability Committee (EMSC) created in the CASB to be in-charge of implementing environmental management and sustainability issues. The implementation of the policy, however, requires the goodwill of the stakeholders and collaborators, and the county, national, regional and global community.

## **2.2 Strategies**

These strategies aim to guide the County Assembly of Bungoma in achieving the objectives of its Environmental Management and Sustainability Policy, promoting sustainable development, and protecting the environment for the benefit of current and future generations.

They include;

- a) Top of form - Allocate adequate resources to support environmental management, green computing and sustainability initiatives
- b) Implement resource-efficient practices in all county operations, including energy conservation, responsible water use, and sustainable waste management.
- c) Promote the use of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, in county-owned facilities and encourage private entities to do the same through incentives or policies.
- d) Develop climate change adaptation strategies to address the potential impacts of extreme weather events, such as flooding and droughts.
- e) Implement water management solutions to ensure a secure water supply in the face of changing climate patterns.
- f) Promote waste reduction through public awareness campaigns and support for recycling programs.
- g) Develop and enforce waste management regulations that encourage the separation of waste at the source and the responsible disposal of hazardous waste.
- h) Organize workshops, seminars, and public events to engage citizens in environmental conservation efforts.
- i) Develop and enforce building codes that require new constructions to adhere to green building standards, including energy-efficient design and the use of sustainable materials.
- j) Establish a monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress and impact of sustainability initiatives.

- k) Publish regular reports on the Assembly's environmental performance and communicate progress
- l) Commit to periodic reviews of the Environmental Management and Sustainability Policy to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness in addressing emerging environmental challenges.

### **3.0 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

#### **3.1 Policy Implementation**

The CASB will play a critical and leading role in addressing the environmental challenges by integrating and implementing necessary strategies within its mandate to ensure sustainability.

While the proposed Committee of Environment Management and Sustainability will be responsible for day to day implementation of the policy, the Clerk will be the chief custodian of this policy.

#### **3.2 Institutional Framework for Environmental Management and sustainability**

It shall consist of:

- a) CASB
- b) Management Committee
- c) Environmental Management Sustainability Committee
- d) Members of Staff and Stakeholders
- e) Structures for Environmental Management and Sustainability Policy
- f) Chairperson CASB.
- g) Clerk of the CAB.
- h) Chair of the EMSC.

#### **Roles of the Key Players**

##### **Chairperson CASB shall:**

- i) Be responsible for ensuring that the County Assembly fulfills its responsibilities for promoting an environment that is conducive for promotion of environmental management and sustainability;
- ii) Receive quarterly progress report on the monitoring and implementation of the Policy from the Clerk; and
- iii) Monitor the evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the Policy and

provide advice where necessary.

**The Clerk of the County Assembly shall:**

- i) Be the custodian of this Policy;
- ii) Constitute the EMS Committee;
- iii) Submit to CASB quarterly reports on Environmental Management Sustainability;
- iv) Allocate funds for the operations of the committee.

**The Chairperson EMS Committee shall:**

- i) Provide leadership to the committee, guiding its activities, setting the agenda, and ensuring that meetings are well-organized and productive.
- ii) Lead the committee in the development and review of environmental policies, strategies and sustainability initiatives.
- iii) Act as a spokesperson for the committee, advocating for environmental and sustainability issues both within the County Assembly and in the broader community.
- iv) Be responsible for ensuring that the committee's budget aligns with its goals and priorities.
- v) Oversee the monitoring and evaluation of environmental and sustainability programs and initiatives in Assembly.

**Members of Staff and Stakeholders shall:**

- i) Be responsible for adhering to and enforcing environmental policies and sustainability practices within their respective roles and functions.
- ii) Participate in outreach programs, workshops, and educational initiatives to inform the community about the importance of environmental conservation.
- iii) Work to conserve resources, reduce waste, and promote energy efficiency in their day-to-day operations. This includes responsible water use, waste reduction, and energy conservation.

**4.0 CAPACITY BUILDING**

The management is dedicated to regularly educate and train staff on matters related to Environment Management and Sustainability Policy.

## **5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The purpose of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is to ensure its effective and efficient implementation of this policy. It will also ensure environmental management and sustainability concerns are addressed and integrated in all the CAB systems. The policy programmes will be monitored and evaluated by the Environment Management and Sustainability Committee of the CAB. Appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism will be adopted to quarterly track the achievement of the set objectives. This will involve all the major stakeholders.

## **6.0 REVIEW OF THE POLICY**

Consequently, the policy will be reviewed after three years by the Management Committee in consultation with the Environment Management Sustainability Committee and with the approval of the CASB.



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