



PA CHAMBER OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY'S GREEN INITIATIVE POSITION PAPER ON SUSTAINABILITY

Introduction:

The PA Chamber Green Initiative engages businesses in exploring what is needed from a policy perspective to encourage growth in the green industry sector in a manner that allows consumer choice and innovation to drive that economic activity, while creating a landscape conducive to emerging green and traditional industries. Another focus of the initiative is to more formally bring together businesses in an effort to encourage the sharing of best practices and ideas with the goal of assisting all Pennsylvania employers looking to incorporate sustainability practices into their business model.

The PA Chamber Green Initiative will help inform the public that job creators are good corporate citizens who want all Pennsylvanians to enjoy the long-term economic benefits that can be realized by a free market approach to green products and services and renewable energy.

Statement of Purpose:

The members of the PA Chamber of Business and Industry have developed this position paper to explicitly state our commitment to the sustainable use of natural resources. This position paper is a statement of our view and the manner in which we have and will continue to conduct our business activities, while providing the goods and services, employment and tax benefits that sustain Pennsylvania's social and economic activities.

Definition of Sustainability:

Sustainable development is a pattern of resource use that aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also for future generations, i.e., resource use that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Many PA Chamber members have long focused on sustainability related issues, even before the term was popular. Regulatory compliance is a normal operating goal for all members. We believe that sustainability is critical to the way we do business. Sustainability programs and plans are commonly focused on three main components: Social, Environmental, and Economics. These component areas can include a variety of different focuses depending on the local municipal area, the product and even the region of the Commonwealth. These may include among other possibilities: social (products, services, working conditions, safety and community engagement), environmental (energy utilization, waste minimization, air and water pollution control and pollution prevention),

and economic considerations (cost-effective investment in local programs, cost-effective facility improvements, and cost-effective environmental program improvements).

Our Positions:

PA Chamber members believe that the economic benefits of the free-market, capitalist system also serve to sustain the environmental and social attributes of society.

Recognizing that business practices without economic benefit are themselves unsustainable, we are committed to continue to implement sound business practices that reflect society's environmental concerns to the most reasonable extent possible, while keeping in mind the three pillars of sustainability: people, planet and profit.

PA Chamber members recognize that laws and regulations imposed outside of the framework of free-market capitalism's business best-management practices can directly or indirectly provide artificially imposed limitations on the entrepreneurial, enterprising manner of achieving the sustainable use of our natural resources.

All sustainability efforts have been self-initiated by members of the PA Chamber. We would support policies that encourage and support sustainable business practices, but not policies that dictate and legislate how sustainable business practices must be implemented.

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