

Environmental Policies

Key References for the City Clerk's Office

What you need to know...

While most environmental policies are implemented by other Departments, it is important for the Clerk's Office to be familiar with their existence and where to locate them. Below is a list of East Lansing's primary environmental policies, with citations and a brief summary.



Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Ordinance

(Code Ch. 34, Art. I)

- Requires permits for qualifying land disturbances.

Pollinator-Friendly Community Resolution (2016)

- Supports native landscaping and reduced pesticide use.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

(Resolution 2017-2)

- Requires "green" procurement when feasible.

Green Building Policy

(Resolution 2009-01)

- LEED-Silver required for large municipal buildings; LEED-Silver for private development receiving municipal incentives.

Post-Construction Stormwater Ordinance

(Code Ch. 34, Art. V)

- Mandates on-site runoff control for new development.

Coal-Tar Sealant Ban & Contractor Registration

(Code Ch. 14, Art. IV)

- Bans toxic sealants; applicators must register annually with the City Clerk.

Wetland Protection Ordinance

(Code Ch. 49)

- Requires local review and permits for wetland impacts.

Tree Protection Ordinance

(Code Ch. 48, Art. I)

- Regulates removal and planting of public and certain private trees.

Green Fleet Policy

(Resolution 2014-8)

- Promotes low-emission vehicles and total-cost-of-ownership purchasing

Climate Sustainability Plan (2012)

- Outlines goals across energy, waste, water, transportation, and buildings.

100% Clean Energy Resolution

(Resolution 2020-1)

- Commits to 100% renewable electricity for City operations by 2030.

Recycling in Multifamily Housing

(Code § 36-86)

- Mandates recycling access in new apartment and mixed-use buildings.

Coal-Tar Sealant Ban (Code Ch. 14, Art. IV)

The East Lansing City Council has prohibited coal-tar-based pavement sealants due to their high levels of carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which pollute stormwater and pose public health risks.

The **Clerk's Office** manages the **annual registration process** for commercial sealcoat applicators. The **Director of Planning** and **Building Administrator** are responsible for enforcement.

Key Notes

- **Applicability:** Coal-tar sealants may not be applied to any public or private surface within city limits.
- **Annual Registration:** Required each calendar year; expires December 31. Applications must include:
 - Business name and contact info
 - List of products used, intended uses, and PAH content
 - Signed certification of compliance with Ordinance Ch. 14, Art. IV, §14-155
- **Penalties:** Violations are civil infractions with fines up to \$500 per day.

Clerk's Office - Need to Know

- **Maintain and advertise the form:** Keep the registration application available online and at the front counter. Send December reminders to known contractors.
- **Fee schedule:** Review and update the registration fee during annual Fee Schedule planning.
- **Recordkeeping:** Retain digital copies of all applications per the City's records retention schedule.

This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) under Award Number EE0008653. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof. Find this document and more about the CLC Fellowship that supported this project at graham.umich.edu/clcf.



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