

1) VISION FOR SUSTAINABILITY:

The activities, events, programs and planning of the Rusk Ranch Nature Center strive to model good stewardship of the natural environment.

2) PRINCIPLES:

The organization approach to all activities is guided by the following values:

At Rusk Ranch Nature Center we value the healing power of nature and nature's ability to nurture creativity, to inspire a sense of belonging, and to build community by showing us our deep inter-connectedness. We value the long term wholeness of recognizing that people and nature are inseparable. We strive to nurture whole families, multi-age groups and children.

With adherence to Community, Integrity, Stewardship and Respect for nature, the Rusk Ranch Nature Center Sustainability Policy embraces the following guidelines, actions and commitments

3) ACTION GUIDELINES:

- We believe in using the Earth's resources wisely as we create nature based experiences, programs and events while respecting ecological integrity.
- We also believe we have the power to make a positive human impact on the diverse people we touch.
- As we design experiences, execute events and evaluate our success, we are able to choose every day in big and small ways how our actions and words build a better quality of life for our community, visitors, constituents, event participants, business and organizational partners.

4) COMMITMENTS to ACTION:

Commitments to action will be reviewed and amended for quality annually.

2014 - We commit to:

1. Minimize environmental impacts in the areas of waste, water, energy and air quality.
 - A. Avoid the use of pesticides, herbicides and other toxins on the property without specific unanimous board approval.
 - B. Avoid use of preserved wood on the property for all new building or fencing projects. Use juniper, cedar or other naturally rot resistant wood or alternatives instead.
 - C. Reclaim and recycle water wherever possible. Avoid wasteful landscape watering or other water use as much as possible.
 - D. Eliminate use of non-biodegradable cleaning, household, paper or farm products. Replace with biodegradable products. Research options for recycling paper plates and cups.
 - E. Research the appropriateness of using incandescent electric light bulbs, low energy fluorescent or LED bulbs. Create a policy based on weighing the effects on energy use, effects on the environment and toxicity of each.
 - F. Place recycling containers in all areas where waste is collected. Equip recycling containers with explanatory signs for users. Assign recycling duties to a committed volunteer or staff member.
 - G. Remove invasive plants whenever possible. In 2015 create a 20 year plan to restore natural vegetation and plant communities on the property.
2. Incorporate our sustainability principles into our programs wherever possible.