**DRAFT**

**Hinckley Township Sustainability Policy**

**Proposed December 1, 2020**

The Township of Hinckley, under the authority of Chapter 519 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio, resolves as follows:

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Hinckley Township deems it in the interest of the public health, safety, comfort, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of said township and its residents to establish and maintain a general sustainability policy for the unincorporated area of said township.

**Introduction**

Achieving sustainability is paramount to fulfilling the Hinckley Township’s mission of conserving natural resources and maintaining the rural charm and character of the township, while serving the interests of Hinckley residents and property owners, including further development and recreational opportunities expected from the residents.

Hinckley Township has the ability to sustain safe infrastructure, quality housing and other natural resources for residents while providing adequate services. To this end, Hinckley Township updated its Master Policy Plan 2003 to the Hinckley Township Comprehensive Plan in 2015 with an emphasis on zoning and sustainability. “Integrate environmentally sustainable practices as part of Township services” is Action Item CS.3.2 of the Hinckley Comprehensive Plan 2015.

Hinckley Township is committed to promoting sustainability. Concerns for the environment and promoting a broader sustainable agenda are integral to the township’s future and the management of the township entrusted to the trustees. The township aims to follow and to provide good sustainable practices, to reduce the environmental impacts on all their activities.

The township shall have an established policy on environmental sustainability that states the township’s position on energy, development and resource conservation. The policy addresses sustainable design and construction of buildings and facilities, sustainable product purchasing; reduction and handling of waste; and wise use and protection of land, air, water and wildlife.

Accordingly, the Trustees with input from Hinckley residents have drafted a **Sustainability Policy** to provide deliberate direction on specific focus areas and planned activities to continually and successfully integrate sustainability into Hinckley Township’s fabric to further enhance the central vision that conservation has played in the township’s history.

**Focus Areas**

1. Ecological stewardship of land, water, flora and fauna

2. Energy efficiency and conservation

3. Enforcing zoning regulations to the fullest extent

4. Develop zoning regulations with respect to encouraging sustainability

5. Sustainable development of land for residential uses

6. Sustainable development of land for business uses

7. Sustainable development of the Town Center Business District

8. Sustainable development of the Medina County managed water system

9. Sustainable development and management of township roads and signage

10. Sustainable development and management of township sports facilities

11. Sustainable development and management of township wastewater treatment facilities

12. Water quality, conservation and storm water management

13. Preserve and promote well-planned conservation districts and conservation easements

14. Prevent air, water, land and other pollution, and dispose of waste safely and responsibly

15. Resource consumption and waste reduction

16. Resurgence of Hinckley’s buildings, cemeteries, community, parks, perennial streams, recreation areas and other open public spaces

17. Renewed focus on the East Branch of the Rocky River and the Rocky River Watershed within our community

18. Support for the Rocky River Watershed Council activities within our township

19. Cooperation with the Cleveland Metroparks’ Hinckley Reservation within our township to the goals of their Sustainability Policy

20. Cooperation with the Highland School Board operating an elementary school within our township to the goals of their Sustainability Statement.

**Commitment**

The Sustainability Policy also calls for the development of a Best Practices Guide and Action Plan to achieve the goals set forth in each focus area. To guide this work, the trustees meet quarterly with a resident’s team and more often as needed to move projects forward and continually improve our endeavors toward operating more sustainably.

**Principals**

We are committed to continually improve the integration of sustainability into our working environment and township processes. Our Sustainability Policy is based upon the following principles:

* To comply with, and exceed where practicable, all applicable laws, legislation, regulations and codes of practice
* To integrate sustainable considerations into all our township decisions
* To ensure that all staff are fully aware of our Sustainability Policy, and are committed to implementing and improving it
* To minimize the impact on sustainability of all office and transportation activities.
* To minimize the townships impact on our environment and maximize the effective use of resources
* To make suppliers aware of our sustainable management practices
* To review, annually report, and to continually strive to improve our sustainability performance

**Purpose**

This Sustainability Policy aims to integrate a philosophy of sustainable development for the township and establish and promote sound environmental practice in its operation.