



Environmental Framework Policy

Adopted by the November 27 - 28, 2008
Federal Council

fneeq 
CSN





PREAMBLE

With this policy, the FNEEQ, as a union federation in the field of education, recognizes its educational and social responsibility with respect to the environment, as is exemplified by this policy. The *Environmental Framework Policy* is a way for the FNEEQ to affirm its interest in this issue, set out its goals with respect to the environment, promote the development of organizational practices that reflect concern for the environment, and inform affiliated unions and their members about this policy.

In this policy, the FNEEQ calls on its members to take greater personal and collective responsibility for their actions. As a socially responsible organization, the Federation seeks to integrate environmental and sustainable development concerns into its practices. The Federation advocates union activity involving the participation of unions and their members in political citizens' environmental campaigns. Furthermore, the Federation is committed to becoming a model of involvement in its field. Therefore, its actions will be consistent with its environmental principles.

This environmental policy provides a frame of reference and a framework for action composed of policies that can be adapted so that each union can develop its own policy and give concrete expression to action on this front on the basis of its own realities. It does not include any commitment by the Federation and its unions to various social or political campaigns, but constitutes a frame of reference for their involvement.



1. Scope

The FNEEQ's *Environmental Framework Policy* has been developed to provide guidance for an organizational practice that is respectful of the environment. It also defines the responsibilities of elected officers, members and employees, and that inform relations with various suppliers, consultants and visitors as well as with affiliated unions.

2. Fundamental Principles

The FNEEQ's policy is based on two principles: environmental education and the adoption of practices promoting sustainable development.

The FNEEQ is committed to:

- educating and raising awareness of the environmental impact of its activities;
- adopting individual and collective practices aimed at protecting the environment and respecting the principles of sustainable development;
- gradually turning to organizations and suppliers that can help the FNEEQ achieve the goals set out in this policy;
- complying with existing laws, regulations, orders-in-council and standards and working to improve them.



3. Policy Goals

In adopting an *Environmental Framework Policy*, the Federation pursues the following major goals:

- raising awareness and educating about environmental protection and sustainable development;
- translating these principles into concrete action that will have a positive impact on the environment and people's health while integrating a long-term vision;
- encouraging the active involvement of affiliated unions and their members on both the organizational and policy levels.

3.1 Education relating to the environment

As a union federation, the FNEEQ is committed to:

- raising awareness with a view to building up individual and collective accountability for issues related to environmental impact;
- promoting awareness about environmental issues;
- contributing to the adoption of a global vision of the environment in a perspective of sustainable development;
- promoting "eco-efficient" practices and behaviour.



3.2 Adoption of practices promoting sustainable development

The FNEEQ also has the goal of adopting practices directed at the protection of the environment and sustainable development. This is why the Federation advocates and works in favour of the adoption of the following initiatives:

3.2.1 Responsible procurement and consumption

- integrating the CSN's future responsible purchasing policy into our practices;
- integrating the social dimension in the promotion of a responsible procurement policy;
- acquiring products that help preserve or improve the quality of the environment;
- purchasing products whose manufacturing processes contribute to the protection of the environment;
- taking into account the nature and quantity of residual matter created by the production of the products purchased.

3.2.2 Responsible use of energy sources

- promoting energy conservation and improving energy efficiency;
- choosing energy sources that reduce greenhouse gases;
- introducing environmental criteria for the choice of energy sources, technologies and energy use and operating methods.



3.2.3 Protection and conservation of natural resources

- protecting and conserving natural resources;
- reducing sources of pollutants that can constitute a threat to health and the environment.

3.2.4 Improvement of air quality

- ensuring that indoor air quality standards and regulations are met;
- using all the means at the Federation's disposal to improve existing standards (on the ASHRAE model).

3.2.5 Water management

- highlighting the importance of responsible consumption of water;
- protecting the quality of this resource and eliminating wasteful practices;
- working to prevent the commodification of water.

3.2.6 Ecological management of residual matter

- implementing residual matter management according to the 4RV-E principle, by promoting reduction at source, re-use, recovery, recycling, reclamation (adding value) and, finally, elimination of residual matter.



3.2.7 Management of potentially hazardous materials

- reducing the consumption of dangerous or toxic substances by using equivalent but less harmful products;
- recovering and recycling hazardous materials and disposing of hazardous waste safely.

3.2.8 Enhancing the value of living spaces

- encouraging development that is mindful of the environment, that is energy efficient and that promotes the quality of life both outdoors and indoors;
- aiming for a reduction in activities that generate noise, visual and light pollution;
- encouraging the development of green spaces.

3.2.9 Transportation and travel

- promoting the use of mass and collective transit (bus, car-pooling, subway, train, car-sharing) and active means of travel (bicycle, walking) in order to reduce the environmental impact of overuse of automobiles;
- promoting the use of vehicles that are more energy-efficient and that use clean energy, while condemning the use of biofuels that are made from plants that are source of food.



4. The FNEEQ's Mandate

In this work, the FNEEQ draws in part on the resources committed by the CSN on this issue. The FNEEQ's mandate is to:

- affirm its interest in environmental issues;
- act as an example for unions and the community;
- define a FNEEQ action plan linked to a global vision of environmental and sustainable development initiatives that can include educational, training and information activities and taking inventory of practices and behaviour;
- be involved in citizen and political initiatives;
- promote access to the pertinent available information;
- make environment and sustainable development issues (information and training activities) a regular agenda item at meetings of the Federal Council;
- provide support to unions that would like to have an opinion on the environmental impact of a decision or action;
- promote and see to the implementation of this policy and the accomplishment of its goals;
- make political representations to governments to have environmental concerns incorporated in invitations to tender;
- include the importance of making use of professional environmental experts and consultants on environmental matters;
- inform the public about the actions taken by unions and the FNEEQ on environmental issues.



5. Legal Framework

5.1 Laws and regulations in effect

The provisions contained in this policy fit into a legal framework—the government’s laws, regulations and orders-in-council on the environment. The FNEEQ also aims to take action to develop and improve this legal framework.





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