

## SUMMARY OF SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

**IMBEWU Sustainability Legal Specialists (Pty) Ltd and Warburton Attorneys** developed and began implementing an office “Sustainability Strategy” in 2010 after acquiring our own office building at the end of 2009. To assist in promoting the concept of Green Offices we have outlined the following key points from our Strategy.

Our Strategy is based on the following principles:

- To integrate sustainability considerations into all of our business decisions.
- To ensure that all staff adhere to our sustainability vision and are committed to its implementation.
- To minimise the impact of our business activities on the environment.
- To make clients and suppliers aware of our sustainability vision and encourage them, and where possible, assist them in adopting sound sustainable management and related legal practices.
- Annually to review and report on, and continually to strive to improve, our sustainability performance.

Our Strategy focuses on the key areas related to the entities’ business operations which have a greater potential to impact negatively on the environment, including:

1. Water management;
2. Biodiversity management;
3. Waste management;
4. Energy consumption; and
5. Procurement.



### **1. WATER MANAGEMENT**

We discovered a natural spring which runs directly underneath our Parkwood premises which was causing drainage problems and water logging of our parking area. We then tested the water according to SABS standards and it was found to be fit for human consumption (potable water). The spring water is pumped and stored in a water tank that has been linked to our entire building and is used for the irrigation of our garden as well as for the toilets, wash basins in the bathrooms and kitchen use. Our office drinking water is also filtered through a water purifying and cooling system. We do not use or serve bottled water at our offices.

### **2. BIODIVERSITY**

We have a small indigenous garden surrounding our building. Birds, geckos, snails and various other fauna can be found within this garden. The gardens surrounding the building were cleared of all invasive alien plant

species prior to our occupation of the premises in 2009 in order to ensure that the flora which remained was mainly indigenous. In addition, we have introduced a bird feeder, using wild bird seed, in the trees located on the premises to encourage active bird life as well as a water feature and a bird bath.

### **3. WASTE**

We have developed a Waste Management Plan and currently recycle the following wastes:

1. Paper
2. Plastics
3. Metals
4. Glass
5. Electronic waste

We will be introducing an organic waste plan in 2011 and, upon the implementation of the plan, will henceforth use organic waste to fertilize our gardens.

### **4. ENERGY**

Eskom Demand Side Management conducted an Energy Audit at our offices in November 2010. Based upon specific recommendations made in the Audit and using a phased approach we intend implementing a number of the energy saving measures. Under the first phase of the approach, we have decentralised the lighting system in the offices, thus permitting the different sections of the offices to be lit separately from one another, and have replaced nearly all of the light bulbs with energy saving bulbs. We have also implemented an internal electricity saving policy whereby employees ensure that all lights and air conditioning units are switched off when those rooms are not in use. We only switch our geyser on for 12 hours per week and it is always switched off overnight and on weekends. During the next phases of the approach, we will be installing an internal meter to monitor our electricity usage by the different appliances. We will also install energy saving air conditioning units and once our electricity consumption has decreased significantly, we aim to source most of our energy from solar panels.

### **5. PROCUREMENT**

Wherever possible we only purchase “environmentally / eco-friendly” products and utilise service providers who strive to apply sustainable practices.

For more information on our Sustainability Strategy, please contact Thuli Khaba on [admin@imbewu.co.za](mailto:admin@imbewu.co.za) or 011 214 0660/1