



Maryland Green Registry MEMBER

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Gabel Legal Services, LLC

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Law Firm

Member since March 2010

Management and Leadership



Environmental Policy Statement

Gabel Legal Services is dedicated to minimizing its impacts and the impacts of its services on the environment in every way. Truly serving our clients means not only being diligent and attentive to the client matter at hand but also to the client's desire to live in a world that is as clean and healthy as possible in the future. The foundation of that cleaner and greener future is laid by the actions we take today.

Many of our clients have made commitments of their own to reduce their impacts on the planet. It is therefore important that we reduce our impacts when we serve them so that they do not compromise their principles when they engage our services.

It is important to remember that when we represent our clients, those we interact with will judge our clients, at least in part, by our conduct as their representative. Therefore, we must let everyone know that our clients care about the environment and good stewardship of the planet and its resources by conveying that through our words and actions.

Finally, it is important that we set an example of environmental responsibility as a firm. We believe that it is important to protect our environment, conserve resources, and preserve for future generations the wonder of the natural world around us. Perhaps our greatest service in furtherance of those goals is the example we set so that others may follow our lead in the shared hope that environmental responsibility will become the expectation of business, rather than the exception.

Therefore, Gabel Legal Services Commits itself to the environment by acting with environmental responsibility, including (but not limited to):

- . Compliance with all applicable environmental regulations;*
- . Prevention of pollution whenever possible;*
- . Training of our staff and clients (if they wish) on our environmental program and empowering them to contribute and participate;*
- . Communication of our environmental commitment and efforts to our customers, staff, and our community; and*
- . Continuously improving over time by striving to measure our environmental impacts and by setting goals to reduce these impacts.*

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

Gable Legal Services (GLS) has implemented a Preferred Purchasing Program through its initiative to act as a reduced paper/paperless office. GLS purchases paper and other products with at least some recycled content with preferences determined by the amount of recycled materials composing the item purchased. Further, GLS has enrolled in paperless delivery services. GLS has implemented web-fax/e-fax, e-billing, e-accounting, and other paperless services. All computers, equipment and appliances are Energy Star rated and all consumables are chosen to have the lowest impact practicable (e.g. all office lighting is run on LED or Compact fluorescent bulbs, all purchased writing implements are fully recyclable and non-toxic, etc.)

Environmentally Preferable Products and Services

GLS has developed a practice strategy that emphasizes reduced impacts on the environment. Client meetings and documents are performed using conferencing software such as GoTo Meeting whenever possible. Documents are circulated in PDF through e-fax or e-mail as much as possible to reduce resources consumed. Billing and accounting is done through e-mail and other similar media to further reduce consumption of materials usually used to produce these items. Whenever possible, GLS obtains agreements from opposing attorneys to exchange as much of the case related material as possible through e-mail and other lower impact media. GLS even provides advice and training to opposing counsel at their request to facilitate this policy.

GLS staff also have a long history of environmental professional activities including publication of endangered species reports, environmental planning documents such as environmental impact statements, as well as scientific studies on endangered and wetland plant species.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

GLS attorney John Gabel serves as the Co-Vice Chair to the City of Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee. In this capacity he is actively engaged in developing policies to foster Green Initiatives in the community. He also acts as a leader for one of the Bowie "Stream Teams" which is a group that coordinates community volunteers for clean-ups of local waterways throughout the city two times each year.

GLS staff have consistently shown environmental leadership through outreach and education to school children and the community through environmental programming and volunteer efforts.

Waste

Solid Waste Reduction

GLS has implemented a reduced paper/paperless office plan. The result of this plan is that the office has not needed to use more than three reams of paper per user per year. The files having to be retained in hard copy have been reduced to one file drawer. This initiative along with available recycling provided by the City of Bowie has reduced the solid waste GLS produces to less than 20 lbs per month.

Recycling

GLS routinely recycles owing in large part to the excellent recycling system of the City of Bowie which provides frequent and easy recycling. GLS recycles 99% of the paper content it receives, scanning or otherwise electronically archiving all important and relevant documents that are not required to be kept in hard copy.

Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction

GLS regularly uses the toxic and hazardous waste recycling services of the City of Bowie. For example, electronic devices are saved until the annual electronic device recycling event to reduce heavy metal contamination in landfills.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

The GLS Preferred Purchasing Program was implemented with energy efficiency in mind. All equipment and materials purchased are the highest

efficiency practicable both in terms of their power usage and in terms of the energy necessary to produce them.

Transportation

Employee Commute

GLS employees work out of their homes, thus eliminating the commute. Meetings are held on-line through programs such as GoTo Meeting and other social interfacing applications to allow coordination of work and facilitate communications without having to commute.

Efficient Business Travel

Business travel has been all but eliminated through the use of programs such as GoTo Meeting and other on-line communications that facilitate cooperation between GLS attorneys and clients.

Water

Water Conservation

Installation of high efficiency toilets has reduced water consumption and produced measureable savings of about \$100 each year. Additionally, the landscaping around the premises is maintained with water conservation in mind. The landscaping is only partially watered or irrigated with drip irrigation to prevent water loss and provide for “oasis” areas without the need for mass watering of lawns or other large areas that leads to water waste and run-off.

Stormwater Management and Site Design

Reductions in stormwater run-off have been achieved by increasing the height of the lawn. While specific measures for GLS are unavailable, studies have shown that increasing lawn height decreases the watering needs of a lawn and also increases the water retention of a given lawn area, thus reducing or preventing run-off.



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

