

Roswell Community Masjid Sustainability Policy and Procedures

Policy

We, the Roswell Community Masjid (RCM), are committed to striving to implement the highest environmentally sustainable and regenerative practices to fulfill our responsibility as caretakers for the earth, embodying the model of the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him.

Application of Policy

The following is a proposed set of procedures that will serve to guide RCM's operations, programs, partnerships, procurement, and decision making. These procedures are concurrent with the imperatives of the Living Building Challenge (LBC). We expect these procedures to change over time based on the evolution of knowledge and of our community.

Education

RCM is committed to educating and encouraging the staff and members of the congregation on the importance of environmental sustainability and regenerative practices.

Education Methods

- Provide trainings at Executive Committee (EC) meetings
- Provide trainings for volunteers and staff
- Provide trainings for janitorial services
- Incorporate practical and Islamic information about sustainability and regenerative practices in the following programs (but not limited to):
 - Post-prayer lectures
 - Potlucks and religious talks
 - Sunday School
 - Quranic Studies Program
 - Al-Bayaan Institute
 - Girls and Boys Scouts
 - Youth lectures
 - Mommy and me
 - IQRA toddlers
 - Golden Agers
 - New Muslim Program
- Produce educational social media posts and newsletters
- Organize Kendeda Building tours for the RCM community

Waste Reduction

RCM is committed to implementing the following waste reduction and zero waste practices.

RCM Events

- Preferred: Reusable dinnerware, utensils, and tablecloths (attendees can bring their own). Or encourage attendees to bring their own reusable items.
- Serve food from reusable trays.
- Use compostable plates, utensils, bowls, and cups.
- Provide drinking water in pitchers instead of single serve plastic bottles.
- Encourage people to bring reusable mugs and water bottles.
- Eliminate plastic bottles.
- Eliminate single-use packaging and condiments (cream, sugar, milk, ketchup, jam, juice boxes, etc.).
- Eliminate foods that generate high volumes of waste (soups, oily dishes, rice pudding, etc.).
- Plan for excess food to be distributed (taken home, donated to a shelter like Atlanta Mission: My Sister's House, partner with [Second Helpings](#)).

Catering and Vendors

- Coordinate with vendors to send food in compostable to go boxes or provide them with the compostable boxes prior to the day of delivery. Or request that they deliver the food in reusable serving trays.

Group and Private Events

- RCM will share these procedures with any group, internal or external, who plan meals/events at the congregation's facility.

Sunday School and Frequent Onsite Programs

- RCM will provide food and parents will send their child a lunch box with an empty container (for serving the food), a water bottle, and silverware. The child will return these items home to be washed.
- For students who bring lunch, leftovers should be taken home in the lunchbox.
- Eliminate single serve chips, juice boxes, or snacks with non-recyclable or non-compostable packaging. If necessary, purchase snacks in bulk.
- Alternative snacks: Apples, oranges, grapes, dates, cucumbers, carrots, etc.
- Plan for excess food to be distributed (as previously mentioned).

Waste Management

Bin System

- Create centralized waste stations that include compost, recycling, and landfill.
- The process for designing and building RCM's bins will be added to these procedures once completed.

Onsite Composting - Offsite Commercial Composting

- Fund a year-round commercial compost contract that composts all food scraps and compostables.
- Implement a trial compost collection system that collects food scraps, paper towels, tea bags, coffee grounds, compostable serving ware and appropriate landscape trimming such as grass and small branches.
 - Compost will be run by trained volunteers and interested youth groups (Girl Scouts or Sunday School) that can include it into their curriculum.
 - Compost will be used on the current and new RCM locations for landscaping enhancement. Any additional compost will be available to the community.

Recycling

- Recycle all commonly accepted materials with a dumpster vendor: clean accepted plastics (numbered ♻1-7 but not ♻ 6), aluminum cans, glass containers, paper, and cardboard
- Consult with the [City of Roswell Recycle Center](#) for additional items not mentioned above for items such as electronics, furniture, lightbulbs, batteries, print cartridges, and other materials.

Materials

RCM is committed to using the following points to guide purchasing decisions. Purchasing encompasses a wide range of things including furniture, flooring, batteries, lightbulbs, paint, cleaning products, materials used in landscaping, bathroom towels, soaps, and toilet paper to name a few.

- Assess purchases for sustainability
 - Eliminate purchasing of styrofoam materials and single-use plastics.
 - Refrain from purchasing items that contain [Red List Materials](#).
 - Look for vendors that use the [Declare](#) Label to identify exactly what is in the product.
 - Other labels of import include: compostable, biodegradable, recyclable, USDA organic, contains post-consumer recycle, made locally, made with renewable products/energy, etc.
 - Know what happens to the product at the end of its life to guide purchasing decisions. Is it reusable, refillable, recyclable or headed for the landfill? Avoid purchasing products that will end up in the landfill at the end of its life.
- Assess for just production of goods and contracted services
 - This includes aspects of diversity, fair wage, and good working conditions.
 - Look for the [Just](#) label when purchasing/contracting.
 - Other labels of import include: Fair Trade, Certified B, Bird Friendly, Cruelty Free, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council), Cradle to Cradle, etc.
- Other purchasing considerations
 - Shop second-hand when making large purchases, such as furniture.
 - Encourage reuse by highlighting where possible such as in art competitions, gardening, holding special events for reuse, shared materials announcements, etc.
 - Donate items that are no longer used but could be used by another community or at Goodwill such as rugs, furniture, books, office supplies, etc.

Sustainable Landscaping

RCM is committed to implementing the following land management practices that reduce waste, conserve water and energy, and support wildlife habitats.

- Set expectations with the landscape service provider that all yard trimmings should be composted, digested, or mulched.
- Implement grasscycling by leaving grass clippings on all mowed surfaces.
- Use landscaping techniques that require little to no trimming and disposal of waste material.
- Use natural and non-toxic alternatives to fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.
- Favor native plants and plants that are climate resilient.
- Capture rainwater through rain barrels or cisterns for use in the landscaping/gardens.

Water

RCM is committed to implementing the following initiatives to conserve water.

- Apply for the GIPL grant to get a low water/ low energy commercial dishwasher.
- Update all faucets without aerators and verify that the lowest flow ones are in place.
- Implement signage and educational opportunities to inform people how to reduce their water usage when washing their hands and making wudu.

Energy

RCM is committed to implementing the following initiatives to reduce our energy impact.

- Timed lighting and AC/Heat.
- Promote the use of the fans where available.
- Promote RCM's energy saving initiatives so the community can better understand its connection to energy.
- Install low cost or grant funded solar elements such as a car charger, exterior lighting, or small charging stations.
- Maintain doors closed as much as possible to keep heat and ac from escaping.

Place, Biophilia, Beauty, Health & Happiness, & Equity

RCM is committed to utilizing our local resources and resources on site to promote biophilia, beauty, health and happiness, and equity.

- Connect the community with the outdoors when appropriate for: prayer, dining, lectures, hikes, camping, sports, etc.
- Gardening and greening the RCM campuses with beneficial plants
- Use of natural light and natural materials
- Partnering with like minded organizations to magnify the effect of these efforts
- Promoting healthy eating and exercise