

## **DRAFT: Osmosis Environmental Mission & Policy Statement**

### ***Osmosis Environmental Mission Statement***

We are developing a business model which is ecologically, spiritually and financially sustainable, in collaboration with our guests and our community.

### ***Our Commitment***

Osmosis is committed to ecological practices that maintain and restore the health of natural ecosystems, local economies and the wellbeing of our staff and guests. We strive to ensure that we step lightly on the earth and that our operations are ecologically sustainable.

We are committed to reducing the burdens we place on living systems and are making continual progress towards ecological sustainability (a “closed loop system” of cyclical material flow). We are committed to achieving this goal within a generation. Using our power as consumers to buy ecologically responsible products, we hope to support other progressive businesses and help create markets for alternative, green products.

We hope that by embodying the principles of sustainability we can encourage creative dialog on how to reduce human impact on the natural environment, as well as develop and demonstrate model systems. We also work to expand the community of people who understand the functioning of natural systems and our impact on them by being a living example.

Osmosis is committed to ensuring the wellbeing of our staff and guests as well as promoting holistic living and personal wellbeing as key elements of sustainability.

As Part of our plan to ensure ecological sustainability, Osmosis is committed to:

- Reducing and making continual progress toward eliminating the consumption of and/or release of any substance that may cause environmental damage to the air, water, and the earth or its inhabitants. As such we use natural materials wherever possible with priority given to products that are made from reused or recycled materials.
- Working toward the elimination of waste through source reduction and recycling. As part of this commitment we are working toward composting all of our enzyme bath waste and paper waste. We support our local waste-management firm in its efforts and guidelines for commercial users, while preparing all materials from our property for proper recycling or, when absolutely necessary, for other disposal means.
- Working to ensure that none of our purchases support the use of synthetic chemicals in any substances used on our guests. We do not use synthetic or chemical fertilizers in our gardens. We use companion planting, mulches and hand weeding, drip irrigation, local compost and natural soil amendments.
- Conserving water and ensuring that we do not pollute any source or body of water.
- Protecting biodiversity on our riparian site and ensuring that we maintain or restore the old growth characteristics, structure and function of our site.
- Phasing out the purchase of wood or paper products from old-growth forests and purchasing products that are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and/or come from ecologically responsible logging that supports local and indigenous communities. Whenever possible, Osmosis uses recycled wood. We also seek out recycled products with high post-consumer content and paper products made from ecologically responsible alternative fibers such as agricultural waste paper or organic hemp.
- Conserving energy and making every effort to increase energy efficiency. We endeavor to introduce renewable energy sources wherever possible.

- Reducing fossil fuels beginning with the use of biodiesel with a goal to eliminate them completely.
- Auditing and evaluating our progress toward sustainability. We are dedicated to creating an atmosphere that encourages staff, guests and friends to question the status quo, be creative, take risks and find value and joy in exploring new paths toward sustainability.

## ***Our Activities***

### ***Community Impact***

#### *What We Do:*

- Hiring locally is our priority. We are the single largest employer in the Bohemian Corridor.
- We support the fundraising events of community organizations and schools with over \$15,000 worth of donated services each year.
- We participate in preservation and restoration of Salmon Creek Watershed.
- As a member of EcoRing, we participate in developing regional ecotourism.
- As a member of the Bohemian Connection, we help promote businesses along the Bohemian Highway corridor from the Russian River to Freestone.

#### *What You Can Do:*

- Join with organizations in your community which promote sustainability.

### ***Energy & Water Conservation***

#### *What We Do:*

- Use passive measures to conserve energy.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.
- Install water-saver heads in bathrooms, and low-consumption toilet tanks.
- Use drip irrigation in our garden.

#### *What You Can Do:*

- Turn off lights when not in use.
- Take short showers; turn off the water while washing.

### ***Waste Management***

#### *What We Do:*

- Reuse paper and print on both sides whenever possible.
- Recycle all glass, plastic, tin and paper.
- Compost organic waste and some paper products.

#### *What You Can Do:*

- Refill your water bottle.
- Flush ONLY toilet paper and human waste.
- Use eco-friendly toiletry products.
- Deposit recyclables in designated receptacles.

### ***What We Use Everyday***

- Organic teas and Elixirs
- Non-old-growth, 80% post-consumer, recycled office paper
- 100% recycled toilet tissue, paper towel and tissue
- Biodegradable soaps and eco-friendly cleaning products
- Water filter to remove all chlorine from drinking water and showers
- Eco-friendly interior finishes and materials