



# Code of Professional Conduct

The ecoPRO program certifies qualified practitioners in the field of sustainable landscaping who have met the professional knowledge standards established by the ecoPRO Program.

The ecoPRO Code of Professional Conduct applies to all individuals certified under the ecoPRO Program. A certificant may have his/her certification revoked or other disciplinary action taken for violation of the ecoPRO Code of Professional Conduct.

## **Responsibilities Of ecoPRO Certified Individuals:**

### **I. Responsibility and Commitment to Comply with Laws, Policies, And Rules Relating To The Sustainable Landscaping Profession.**

#### **A. ecoPRO Certificant Compliance with All ecoPRO Program Rules And Policies.**

1. Provide accurate and truthful representations of all eligibility information and to submit valid application materials for fulfillment of current certification and recertification requirements.
2. Fulfill current certification and recertification requirements, including continuing education and training requirements.
3. Report possible violations of this Code by certificants to appropriate ecoPRO representatives, upon reasonable and clear factual basis.
4. Maintain the security, and to prevent the disclosure of, ecoPRO examination information and materials.
5. Cooperate with the ecoPRO Program concerning code violations and the collection of related information.

#### **B. Truthful, Appropriate, And Respectful Professional Sustainable Landscaping Practices.**

1. Properly use the ecoPRO credential – adhering to the “ecoPRO Designee Logo & Credential Use Guidelines” – and to provide truthful and accurate advertising and representations.
2. Correct known false representations by other ecoPRO certified individuals.
3. Refrain from any public behavior that is clearly in violation of accepted moral, professional, social, and legal standards.

#### **C. Advancement Of The Sustainable Landscaping Profession.**

1. Encourage the growth and development of professional associates as colleagues and as mentors.
2. Mutually discuss and exchange sustainable landscaping and professional information to other landscaping professionals.
3. Support education, research, and professional development related to sustainable landscaping.
4. Act in an accurate, truthful, and complete manner, including activities related to professional work and research.
5. Promote public awareness of sustainable landscaping.
6. Deliver the best-quality education and awareness information or programs based on the knowledge, sophistication, and resource base of the audience.
7. Support and disseminate this Code of Professional Conduct to other landscaping professionals.
8. Maintain professionalism in personal, environmental, and social decision-making.

9. Strive to follow ecoPRO Sustainable Best Management Practices in all work, whether design, construction, or maintenance.

## **II. Responsibility and Commitment To Clients And The Public.**

### **A. Qualifications, Experience, Competency, And Performance Of Sustainable Landscaping Services.**

1. Provide truthful and accurate representations to the public in advertising, public statements or representations, and in the preparation of estimates concerning costs, services, and expected results.
2. Deliver safe and competent sustainable landscaping services in a timely manner.
3. Exercise unprejudiced and unbiased judgment.
4. Maintain and satisfy the scope or objectives of a project, unless otherwise directed by the client or customer.
5. Recognize the limitations of and to deliver sustainable landscaping services only for which the certificant is qualified.
6. Provide a potential or existing client with appropriate sustainable landscaping referrals when the certificant determines that he or she is unable to be of professional assistance.
7. Maintain and respect the confidentiality of sensitive information obtained in the course of the certificant's professional activities.

### **B. Conflict Of Interest Situations And Other Prohibited Professional Conduct.**

1. Disclose to clients, customers, owners, or contractors significant circumstances that could be construed as a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a significant conflict, and to ensure that such conflict does not compromise legitimate interests of such persons, or influence or interfere with professional judgments.
2. Refrain from offering or accepting inappropriate payments, gifts, or other forms of compensation for personal gain unless in conformity with applicable laws.
3. Avoid actions that may restrain research and field-demonstrated technology, its applications, and publication for monetary gain.
4. Avoid actions that may have anti-competitive effects, including situations where competitors attempt to set prices together.
5. Refrain from unlawful discrimination in professional activities.
6. Avoid any public and social behavior that is clearly in violation of accepted moral, professional, social, and legal standards.

### **C. Public Safety Obligations.**

1. Uphold all applicable laws, regulations, and ethical standards that govern the sustainable landscaping by following all appropriate safety and health procedures to protect clients, customers, workers, and the public from conditions easily leading to injury or damage.
2. Refrain from participating in or condoning activities that threaten public safety or otherwise violate the law, and to inform the appropriate government or professional body upon awareness of such violations.