

## *Environment Committee Guiding Principles*

*As adopted by NCACC Membership on January 11, 2019*

- Public policy on environmental protection must recognize that all physical human activities have an impact on the environment, and provide recognition that there must be a balance between those activities and the environment.
- Enhancements to the environment laws of North Carolina should be justified by sound science and information and based on a clear rationale and purpose for regulatory change.
- State agencies responsible for developing administrative rules to implement federal and state policies should involve local governments in the process at the earliest stages of development and should proceed only after thorough analyses of health, environmental and fiscal risks and impacts.
- State agencies issuing permits for activities that affect the environment should give local governments ample opportunity to comment on proposed permits for consistency with local plans and policies.
- If state law delegates responsibility to local governments for implementing, monitoring and enforcing environmental policy, the state should provide optimum flexibility and discretion in setting fees at the local level to carry out these responsibilities.