Trustee Handbook Book Club

Libraries for the Future: Sustainability as the Newest Core Value

June 18, 2024
Welcome!

In the chat box please share:

1. Your Name
2. Your Library
3. How long you have served on the board

[example: Nate Smith, My Public Library, 3 months]
Promotional Partners

New York State Library
New York Library Association
The Voice of the Library Community

PLS
Public Libraries Section NYLA

PULISDO
Public Library Systems Directors Organization

LTA
Library Trustees Association
Section of the New York Library Association
Today

INTRODUCTION TO OUR TOPIC

MODERATED Q&A

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE
The climate crisis will profoundly affect the health of every child alive today.
“Climate change is the single greatest threat to global health, a "code red for humanity," and is this generation’s grandest challenge.”
EVERY JOB IS A CLIMATE JOB
Sustainability = Core Value
Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible
Intersections

with the governance role of a trustee
Planning
- Mission & Vision
- Continuity of Operations
- Collective Impact

Policies
- Purchasing/Procurement
- Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Action Plan
- PR, Media & Crisis Communication

Funding
- Mitigation & Adaptation
- Insurance
- Personnel

Facilities
- Carbon Footprint
- Resilience
- Redundancies
Examples

What does it look like?
Planning & Policies

Set the Foundation
Strategic Plan
July 2024 – June 2028

Build a sense of community beyond the walls of the physical Library

- Maximize our resources through community collaborations
- Expand library usage through targeted outreach to community organizations and events
- Ensure that community members have access to information and the internet
- Support economic growth and local workforce development
- Participate in local outreach events to reach residents who may not be library users to increase materials in the Library of Things lending collection that will allow patrons to explore their community such as nature kits
Public Policy: Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

The Kalamazoo Public Library believes that in order to fulfill our purpose in serving the community, we must be engaged in the ongoing effort to limit the environmental impact of our operations and strive to be a leader in modeling ecologically sustainable practices. As we work to build a place for community engagement, we are committed to providing resources for our patrons to learn about sustainability through our collections and programming.

As we seek to reduce our impact on the environment, we are committed to continually evaluating our processes and taking action to:

- Reduce the amount of energy we consume
- Reduce the number of natural resources we consume
- Reduce the number of pollutants we contribute
- Increase the amount of recycling in our waste stream
- Make purchasing decisions that place a high value on sustainably produced products
- Promote the use of sustainable transportation

LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The Lancaster Public Library (LPL) has adopted the “triple bottom line” definition of sustainability: creating products that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable.

Environmentally Sound

The LPL is committed to reducing our environmental footprint and protecting our environmental stewardship within our organization. By focusing on impact to the environment, our goal is to maintain future generations’ ability to live, work, and play in a shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources.

We will strive to maintain pollution and waste, conserve energy and water, protect habitat, support renewable energy sources, create environmentally friendly products, and encourage environmentally friendly transportation.

Economically Feasible

The LPL is committed to raising good use of public and local dollars invested in our organization. Our goal is to leverage funds to the maximum benefit of the community served by our library, while ensuring our sustainability is environmentally sound and economically feasible.

Socially Equitable

The LPL will ensure that all employees, staff, and volunteers are treated with respect and valued for their contributions. The library will ensure that all library staff members have opportunities to continuously improve their work performance and are valued for their contributions to the organization.

HANSON PUBLIC LIBRARY SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The Lancaster Public Library recognizes the important role libraries play in fostering community awareness and increasing knowledge about sustainability and environmental stewardship. We support sustainable practices that reduce waste, conserve resources, and protect the environment. We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint and protecting our natural resources.

Our goals:

- Reduce energy usage and maintenance costs through the implementation of renewable energy systems and practices that support sustainable energy sources and alternative transportation.
- Increase the use of environmentally friendly products and services in all areas of the library.
- Reduce waste and encourage recycling.
- Promote environmentally friendly transportation methods.
- Increase public awareness and educate patrons about sustainability issues.
- Encourage partnerships for the benefit of the community through our collections and programming.

Sustainability Policy

The Hanson Public Library is committed to being a good neighbor in an environmentally conscious, socially beneficial and economically responsible way. As we strive to reduce our environmental footprint and protect the environment, we are committed to the continuous improvement of our sustainability efforts.

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Facility Plan Considerations

• Energy Conservation
• Transition to Renewable Energy
• Water Conservation
• Stormwater Management
• Indoor Air Quality
• Power Redundancy (e.g. solar + battery; whole building generator)

• Ecological Restoration
  • Use of native Plants
  • Removal of Invasive Species
  • Reforestation
  • Pollinator Gardens

• Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
• Bicycling Infrastructure: storage, repair
Hendrick Hudson Free Library
1st library in the country to be certified under the Sustainable Library Certification Program
San Diego County Library

1st library in California to join the Sustainable Library Certification Program

Zero-Net Energy Facility Opened March 28, 2023
San Diego County Library, Lakeside Branch

- Both Bookmobiles have been upgraded to electric vehicles (EVs).
- In 2023, all 33 branches of the San Diego Public Library will have Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations installed.
• Webinar Recording

• Slide Deck

• Climate Adaptation LibGuide
#1: Identify Your Region’s Vulnerabilities

- Drought/Heat Wave
- Flooding
- Hail
- Hurricane
- Tornado Outbreak
- Severe Weather
- Wildfire
- Winter Storm/Cold Wave

Image Source: National Centers for Environmental Information, NOAA
Disaster Preparedness

Preparedness Programs & First Responder Appreciation

**Wacky Weather: Are You Prepared?**
This program on preparedness taught children how to stay safe and prepare for power outages, hurricanes, and fires. They received a pillowcase “go-bag” to customize, as well as a digital workbook from the Red Cross.

**Meet Your Community Helpers**
Families were invited to meet local first responders and check out their vehicles, including a fire truck, police car, and ambulance.

**Crafts For A Cause**
This take-and-make program gave patrons the opportunity to create thank you cards for our police officers, firefighters, and first aid squad members. We then donated them along with goodie bags made by our teens in a monthly community service program.
Citizen Preparedness Training Calendar
Putnam County Cooling Centers  Call before you go to make sure the cooling center is open

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Street Address</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brewster Public Library</td>
<td>79 Main St, Brewster, NY 10509</td>
<td>845-279-6421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desmond Fish Public Library</td>
<td>472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524</td>
<td>845-424-3020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia L. Butterfield Library</td>
<td>10 Morris Avenue, Cold Spring, NY 10516</td>
<td>845-265-3040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Public Library</td>
<td>17 Sybil’s Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512</td>
<td>845-225-8585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahopac Public Library</td>
<td>568 Route 6, Mahopac, NY 10541</td>
<td>845-628-2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson Library</td>
<td>1167 Route 311, Patterson, NY 12563</td>
<td>845-878-6121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam Valley Library</td>
<td>30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579</td>
<td>845-528-3242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed Memorial Library</td>
<td>1733 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512</td>
<td>845-225-2439</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Repair Café
Saratoga Springs

📅 Sunday, April 16, 2023
⏰ 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
📍 Skidmore College, Case Center

Sustainable Saratoga
SARATOGA SPRINGS PUBLIC LIBRARY
www.sustainablesaratoga.org
https://www.libraryoflocal.org/

- Tool Lending
- Seed Library
- Special Collections
  - Food Security (Y1)
  - Climate Solutions (Y2)
- Programming
  - Alignment with NYS Climate Smart Communities
Social Cohesion & Civic Participation

Social Cohesion:
Respect, Empathy, and Understanding
Strength of Relationships
Sense of Solidarity
Social Capital through Social Networks

Civic Participation:
Voting
Volunteering
Participating in Group Activities
Community Gardening

Active
Sense of Purpose
Sense of Community
Less social isolation, anxiety and depression
Mindset shifts do not happen overnight.
Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible
Characteristics of Sustainable Libraries

✓ Strong & Authentic Institutions

✓ Catalyst for Social Cohesion & Civic Participation in Communities

✓ Working on Climate Mitigation (reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG))

✓ Active Participants in Climate Adaptation (strengthening community resilience)
Sustainable Library Certification Program

https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/
Sustainable Library Certification Program

Public & Academic Libraries
- Organizational Commitment
- Energy, Land, and Water Use
- Waste, Recycling & Purchasing
- Partnerships
- Community Involvement
- Social Equity
- Community Resiliency
- Financial Sustainability
- Collections

https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/
All members of the New York Library Association are eligible for a free one-year membership to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and 20% off the Sustainable Library Certification Program.
Moderated Q & A
Questions from the Audience
“The American public library works because of dedicated volunteers willing to serve on the board of trustees. We thank you for your service and your dedication to ensuring all New Yorkers powered, engaged and energized by their library. The world is a better place for your efforts.”
Thank You

https://midhudson.org/TrusteeBookClub/