



# SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

## I. POLICY

We are committed to serving the Skokie community according to sustainable practices which meet the needs of those we serve, without impeding the ability of future generations to have equitable access to resources. To this end, we strive to conduct our operations in an environmentally responsible manner which complies with or exceeds all applicable laws and regulations.

We recognize the impacts of our direct actions on the health of our planet and take all reasonable steps to reduce and/or offset those impacts. We measure our environmental impact on an ongoing basis, monitor the effectiveness of our sustainability efforts, and review and revise our strategies regularly according to the most current data and research from credible scientific sources. We incorporate sustainable considerations into our business decisions. We encourage staff and community members to adopt sustainable behaviors and practices through open communication, collaboration, and educational activities.

Our green practices and standards are arranged into four focus areas:

### Waste Reduction

By taking an informed and strategic approach to reducing the volume of materials and resources—including water and power—that are discarded by the library staff and patrons, we can promote responsible consumption, improve the efficiency of our business practices, and maintain a healthy working environment.

### Facility Maintenance

In maintaining a large and complex facility, there are many opportunities to reduce our environmental impact by making informed decisions about the products and procedures we employ. We will consider green practices in our cleaning procedures, pest control methods, landscaping, materials used in repairs and construction, and daily overhead operations.

## Purchasing

By including sustainable thinking in our decision making process around the purchase of consumable items, and in our relationships with vendors, we can seek to decrease the library's carbon footprint and be more mindful about our consumption to the extent that it is fiscally possible.

## Personnel

Our staff can have a significant impact on our environmental footprint by choosing sustainable behaviors. Through education, support, and incentives, we can encourage greener lifestyles in the workplace. We can also provide information to our community and professional colleagues in order to encourage sustainable practices outside the library.

*Adopted by the Skokie Public Library Board of Trustees, December 13, 2017*

