



## Sustainability Policy

(accepted by Curtis Library Board of Directors on 5-4/2022)

Curtis Memorial Library is committed to reducing its impact on the environment by embracing the American Library Association (ALA) core value of sustainability.

*In adopting sustainability as a core value of librarianship, the ALA recognizes the findings in the latest report of the United National Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The report, written and edited by 91 scientists from 40 countries who analyzed more than 6,000 scientific studies, found that the immediate consequences of climate change are far more dire than originally predicted, calling for a transformation of the world economy at a speed and scale that has “no documented historic precedent.”*

In 2019 the ALA made a commitment to the “triple bottom line” framework for sustainability as recommended by the ALA Special Task Force on Sustainability. This tripod consists of developing practices that are **environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable.**

Curtis Library has identified the followings goals as it works to develop the triple bottom line to support its commitment to sustainability:

- To be an example of sustainable practices for community, using technology and methodologies that are both effective and economically feasible.
- To educate community members as to how they can adopt sustainable practices and support the need to address climate change.
- To reduce the carbon footprint of Curtis Memorial Library over the next three years so that the library is as close to carbon neutral as possible by 2025, if not sooner.
- To support social equity in our community, understanding that social equity or environmental justice (the fair treatment and involvement of all people and communities – regardless of race, gender, national origin, or income level) is completely in line with the core values of librarianship defined by the ALA and subscribed to by Curtis Memorial Library.

**Measurement:** The Library will measure the Library’s environmental impact, beginning with its carbon footprint, and set goals to reduce that impact.

**Financial:** The Library will commit to financial support of sustainable practices by committing funding to support:

- The participation of the Library in the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and the changes necessary to become accredited as a Sustainable Library.
- Changes to the library building to support more environmentally sound practices.
- The continued development of both adult and children’s programming that help educate the community about how they can support sustainability.
- Efficient travel practices when travel is necessary/important. Best practices, such as carpooling and using of technology to remotely hold and attend meetings, will be employed whenever practicable. Carbon offsets will be purchased by the library to reduce staff commuting impact as well as for occasions when librarians attend out-of-state conferences.

**Materials Management:** The Library will endeavor to donate deaccessioned materials to not-for-profit organizations whenever practicable, purchase items supplies only as-needed, and purchase sustainably-produced, recyclable materials whenever practicable.

**Solid Waste Management:** The Library will endeavor, whenever practicable, to dispose of equipment and supplies that have reached the end of their useful lives by either donating them to not-for-profit organization(s) or recycling them through the services of the Town or of an appropriate vendor.

*(with thanks to the Comsewogue Public Library, Port Jefferson Station, NY)*