

Resolution to Achieve Carbon Neutrality for ALA Conferences

Whereas ALA Council adopted Sustainability as an ALA Core Value in January 2019 (ALA CD37, Council Documents 2019 ALA Midwinter Conference)¹;

Whereas it is recognized² that conferences/events generate a substantial carbon footprint for in-person events and generate a technology-based carbon footprint for virtual events;

Whereas ALA divisions and units are aware of the need to address the carbon impact and other sustainability aspects of conference gatherings but initiatives are inconsistent^{3,4,5};

Whereas the ALA Executive Board implemented a voluntary carbon offset fee for conference attendance beginning with Midwinter 2020 (in-person);

Whereas ALA Conference Services has purchased carbon offsets for ALA Midwinter and Annual equating to about 50% of estimated carbon footprint generation, beginning with Midwinter 2020; and

Whereas continuing ALA's ongoing voluntary efforts and strengthening these efforts through a measurable goal and supporting policy would be a strong way to demonstrate ALA's and members' commitment to sustainability; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

1. pursues a goal of carbon neutrality for all ALA conferences by the year 2025 and will remain carbon neutral for these events thereafter;
2. delegates to the ALA Council Committee on Sustainability to assist and track progress toward this goal; and
3. encourages all roundtables, chapters, affiliates, and others who work with the Association to consider adopting similar goals to reduce carbon footprints.

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References/Pertinent Background Information

1. ALA Council, "ALA Council Minutes 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting Seattle, WA." American Library Association, January 27, 2019, http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%202.1%20Midwinter%20Minutes_FINAL_0.pdf
2. McGee, Regina, "Meetings and Climate Change," PCMA Convene 26 February (2016), <https://www.pcmacconvene.org/features/cmp-series/meetings-and-climate-change/>
3. Hall, Tracie. "Updated ALA Carbon Offsets Practices/Protocols Spreadsheet," May 17, 2021.
4. "Sustainability," ACRL 2021, Association of College and Research Libraries, Accessed December 17, 2020, <https://conference.acrl.org/registration/sustainability/>
5. Hutchens, Kate, "Carbon Offsets and RBMS Conference Travel," RBMS 2019, ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, <http://conference.rbms.info/2019/2019/04/10/carbon-offsets-and-rbms-conference-travel/>

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