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); 

Whereas it is recognized 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; 

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. 

Mover: Matthew Bollerman, SustainRT Councilor 

Seconder: Ed Garcia, ALA Executive Board 

Ray Pun, Councilor at Large 
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References/Pertinent Background Information


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