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 divisions, roundtables, chapters, affiliates, and others who work with the Association to consider adopting similar goals to reduce carbon footprints. 

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association 
Monday, June 28, 2021, ALA Virtual Annual Conference Council Meeting 

Tracie D. Hall, Executive Director and 
Secretary of the ALA Council
References/Pertinent Background Information