

ALA Council Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: January 6, 2023

RE: Report

CONTACT PERSON: Matthew Bollerman, Chair, Council Committee on Sustainability [matthew@hauppaugelibrary.org; 631-678-5480]

STAFF LIAISON CONTACT: Brian Russell, Program Director, Public Programs Office [brussell@ala.org] and Jamie Santoro, Senior Editor, ALA Editions [jsantoro@ala.org]

BACKGROUND:

- ALA Council voted to create the Council Committee on Sustainability in January 2021 and, once a roster was established, began meeting in July 2021. Monthly virtual meetings have continued.
- The ALA Sustainability Committee's charge is to provide the necessary leadership and monitoring of ALA strategic initiatives that will infuse the core value of sustainability throughout the policies, procedures, practices of our association and our professional activities, in collaboration with the ALA Board and President, ALA Council, ALA divisions, ALA offices and units, ALA round tables, ALA committees, ALA affiliates and ALA staff so that our association and its members contribute to the development of sustainable and resilient communities. In particular, this committee will maintain a working relationship with several ALA offices and groups to affect meaningful sustainability-related outcomes and model best practices across the association.
- Lessa Kanani opua Pelayo-Lozada, ALA President in her June 25 Committee Chair meeting remarks asked that we focus on her priorities: library worker's rights; partnerships, especially ones outside of typical library ones; intersectionalities; and racial equity in practice.

REPORT:

1. Implement the 2021 Council Resolution to Achieve Carbon Neutrality for ALA Conferences by 2025: **In progress.** ALA Conference Services staff have continued to provide and promote the availability of ethical carbon offsets through conference

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registration in 2022-2023. Lessa Kanani opua Pelayo-Lozada, ALA President has committed funds to hire MeetGreen to provide an Event Carbon Executive Summary. The American Library Association has a robust event sustainability program in place, and best practices are already being used at ALA events. We are hoping to understand, in general based upon MeetGreen's experience working with organizations like ALA, what the major carbon impacts are from an event and what might be done to mitigate their effect. This could include event design to reduce attendee travel, food and beverage selection, waste reduction strategies, and so forth. For this project, MeetGreen is to provide an executive summary that outlines the top 4-6 carbon-reducing strategies that ALA should focus on when it comes to conference planning. In addition, a proposal to the Executive Board to incorporate carbon offsets into the cost of attending conference is being developed to address concerns from our peers in the field from states where their ability to "add on" this cost manually to registration fees is compromised.

2. Implement the third resolved clause of the 2019 Council Resolution for the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship to "Evolve accreditation standards to ensure the topic of sustainability is an inherent element in library school curriculum.": **In progress.** An Accreditation Team has formed and will be investigating ways to approach achieving this part of the 2019 Council Resolution.
3. Develop a web presence to introduce key concepts of sustainability and to urge climate action: **Completed.** The Committee worked with ALA Librarian & Archivist Colleen Barbus to update and upgrade the ALA LibGuide on Sustainability. Visit the page here: <https://libguides.ala.org/SustainableLibraries>
4. Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices ALA eLearning Course: **Completed.** The American Library Association has partnered with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>) to produce a new eCourse on Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices in February and March 2023. Registration is here: <https://elearning.ala.org/local/catalog/view/product.php?productid=670> The goals of the course are: Students will have a strong understanding of the "triple bottom line" definition of sustainability as adopted by the American Library Association as a Core Value of Librarianship.
 - Students will be able to accurately describe operational decisions, services, programs, and partnerships their library is already undertaking that better position their institutions as sustainability leaders

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- Using the “sustainable thinking” model, students will be able to make operational decisions as well as design new services, programs, and partnerships to ensure their institutions are relevant and responsive in the face of the impacts of climate change.
 - Students will understand the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the context of climate justice.
5. Exploration of Council Committees and Sustainability Intersections: **In progress.** Committee members are inquiring how the concept of the triple bottom line is being incorporated into the work of the Association. We are examining Council’s own committees first.
 6. Promotional partnership between ALA and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative: **On-going effort.**
 7. Reviewing other Association’s Sustainability Work: **In progress.** Committee members are investigating what other membership organizations outside of our industry are doing to be more sustainable, seeking best practices for gathering, awards, publishing, and doing the work of promoting their industry.
 8. Promotion of [Sustainability in Libraries: A Call to Action](#) has been seen in ads placed in *American Libraries* and *Public Libraries* magazines. A recent article in *Public Libraries* written by Lanecia Smith, promoted the work of the Council Committee on Sustainability.