

Small Libraries Will Save the World! Implementing Sustainability at Your Library -resource list

Consumable Product Switches

Toilet paper: – Who Gives a Crap? (brand!)

The 100% recycled paper, 3-ply version costs \$1/roll & 50% of their profits go to building toilets for communities in need. <https://us.whogivesacrap.org/>

Use this reference link to get \$10 off your first purchase and the Carnegie Library will get \$10 account credit account (win-

win!): <https://refer.whogivesacrap.org/by/agriffith@eurekalibrary.org>

Tissues – Marcal

Marcal Pro Facial Tissue - 100 Tissues in a Flat Tissue Box - 100% Recycled Soft Tissue Paper - 30 Boxes Per Case from Amazon. At \$30.38 for 30 boxes that's \$1.01 per box.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B004NG8Z18/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_2px4Db8JHNRQE

Paper towels – Seventh Generation

Seventh Generation Paper Towels, 100% Recycled Paper, 2-ply, 6-Count (Pack of 4) from Amazon Subscribe & Save. At 35.96/24 rolls it shakes out to just \$1.49/roll

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B004G5RHEM/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_Bkx4Db40XA8TH

Bathroom dispenser paper towels – Tork

Tork Universal RK350A Hardwound Paper Roll Towel, 1-Ply, 7.87 in Width x 350 ft Length, Natural, Green Seal Certified. This happens to be what fits our particular bathroom dispensers, and the cost breaks down to \$2.05/roll

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B009NKXI84/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_CBx4DbXVWKNKH

For more information on the impacts of disposable paper products and brand "report card," see this article from the Natural Resources Defense Council:

<https://www.nrdc.org/media/2019/190220>

NRDC's updated 2020 report card: <https://www.nrdc.org/media/2020/200618-20>

Plastic bags - Biobags

Biobags- Regular Shopping Bags are made from Mater-Bi®, hold up to 12 lbs and can be composted together with food waste. When buying 10 or more cases (500 bags in each case), each case costs \$67.50, or .135¢/bag

<https://www.biobagusa.com/products/commercial/shopping-produce-bags/>

Compostable lids and coffee cups

The ultimate goal is to eventually phase out disposable cups altogether & transition to solely to reusable, but until that time, here is an alternative to styrofoam & plastic.

AmazonBasics Compostable PLA Hot Cup Lid for 10 oz -20 oz cup, 1,000-Count- \$59.00 (.06¢/lid)

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07HGJFF46/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_kPx4DbA7QY4ZT

AmazonBasics Compostable PLA Laminated Hot Paper Cup, 10 oz, 1,000-Count- \$99.00 (.09¢/lid)

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07HGHYTBR/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_7Sx4DbGSNQZ3G

Palm oil free products

What's the deal with palm oil? In terms of sustainability, the issue is that there is a huge demand for palm oil because it is used in thousands of products, from makeup and cleaners, to candy & cereal and so much more. This has led to deforestation of rainforests to make way for palm oil plantations, habitat loss for thousands of species, and a removal of a carbon sink where those forests used to stand. See the following link for a list of products that use palm oil: <https://productswithoutpalmoil.com/palm-oil-free-products-list/>

Reusable Gloves

Fair Trade Natural Rubber Latex Gloves with cotton lining, can be cut up and composted when worn out. \$5.50/ pair

https://packagefreeshop.com/products/fair-trade-latex-household-gloves?variant=32344276402273&gclid=CjwKCAjwq_D7BRADEiwAVMDdHlxFUQKxTQzE_BiXtbRXh-X2EtmSbwV_htAojDVD1MjEBywqRpE_FBoC5kYQAvD_BwE

Reusable Wipes

We purchased reusable wipes from our local dollar store, but there are a range of options out there. The most sustainable option here is to upcycle old cotton t-shirts to use as reusable wipes, but if you want to purchase these, you can order a box of cotton rags from ULINE starting at \$27 for a box of 70, roughly 39¢ each:

https://www.uline.com/Product/Detail/S-21353/Cloth-Rags-and-Towels/Standard-White-T-Shirt-Rags-10-lb-box?pricode=WB0657&gadtype=pla&id=S-21353&gclid=CjwKCAjwq_D7BRADEiwAVMDdHv_zKC8yudCgGeAGbQLuXoMJUYX6Y7QiQLDbMwut4jFchWhwhR9VLRoC5cEQAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

Zero/Reduced Waste: Recycling Library materials

Books

We sell book that have been donated to us or weeded from our collection to help pay for library programming costs, but sometimes we just have too many or can't sell them. When this happens, we often send them to Better World

Books: <https://www.betterworldbooks.com/go/donate>

CDs & DVDs

For disposing hard to recycle materials we send our scratched-beyond-repair DVDs and CDs and CD jewel cases to the CD Recycling Center of America; all we pay for is the shipping cost – they also accept and recycle Christmas light strands too, just FYI:

<https://www.cdrecyclingcenter.com/programs/libraries>

Plastic bubble mailers, pre-filled air pillow packaging, newspaper bags, etc.

You may have noticed many links to Amazon up there, so in case you didn't already know it, you can recycle those plastic bubble mailers that they ship books and DVDs in at any major retailer where they collect bags (such as Walmart). You can also recycle those big air pillows that are used in shipping, the bags that newspapers come in, and any other plastic film marked #4 (LDPE) at that designated drop off point as well. Find the closest location to you by going here: <https://how2recycle.info/sdo>

If you are feeling ambitious, you can start your own community plastic film recycling program, and if you are able to collect 500 pounds of plastic refuse in a six-month span (about 40,500 plastic bags), the company TRex (that makes furniture out of recycled plastic) will donate a high-performance composite bench to your school or community.

<https://www.trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/>

#5 Plastic

Yogurt containers and many other plastic packages are made out of polypropylene (#5) plastic, but many municipal recycling programs do not accept these materials. You can recycle these items through Preserve's Gimme5 recycling program. Preserve is also now collecting plastic cutlery to recycle at collection stations in Whole Foods Markets.

<https://www.preserve.eco/pages/how-to-recycle>

Electronics

Computers, printers and other electronics are often made with heavy metals, but it is also not easy to find municipal retailers that accept old electronics. I'd recommend hauling them off to the nearest Best Buy where you can recycle them for free. Old TVs and computer monitors (anything with a screen) they will charge \$10 to recycle, but then automatically issue you a \$10 gift card, so be prepared for that. You can also see if your old electronics are worth anything, in which case, they'll give you credit for it on a

giftcard! <https://www.bestbuy.com/site/services/recycling/pcmcat149900050025.c?id=pcmcat149900050025>

Old Markers

You can recycle old markers (regardless of the brand) through Crayola, and they will pay for the shipping but they also require a minimum weight of 8-10lbs.

<https://www.crayola.com/colorcycle.aspx>

Miscellaneous

If you are interested in how to recycle other hard-to-dispose of items, or just want to know where to point people who might be interested, check out TerraCycle, which sometimes will even pay for shipping costs! Everything from solo cups, guitar strings, old toys, Tupperware, shoes and cigarette butts, the list goes on and on:

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades>

https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/about-terracycle/recycle_your_waste

Programs

Seed Library

Check out Kent District Library's seed library website for explanations, resources, ideas, and seeds companies that might donate to help you get your seed library started!

<https://kdl.org/faqs/what-is-the-kdl-seed-library/>

Climate Science & Solutions

Dr. Myria Allen from the University of Arkansas delivered a presentation on current climate science and implications at our library in her role as a volunteer with the Climate Reality Project. She used area-specific data to talk about the challenges that will be faced in our home state as a result of climate change as well as solutions for mitigating climate change. You can find out more about these presentations and find your a local climate reality leader to give a free program at your library by going here: <https://realityhub.climaterealityproject.org/requestorhelp>

Native Plant Ecology

We had a local representative from our Native Plant organization come and talk about why native plants are important to pollinators and to overall ecology. I'd recommend reaching out to your state's Native Plant Society chapter. Here you can find a directory for NPS chapters by state: <https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-resources/societies-clubs-organizations/native-plant-societies/>

Repair Café

Many libraries have hosted Repair Cafes – programs where a space equipped with materials and tools are available for visitors to mend their broken items from home (toys, appliances, bicycles, etc.), and experienced volunteers with repair skills in a variety of fields are on hand to assist and give advice. The Covid-19 pandemic forced a

temporary halt to in-person programming, but virtual programs can be held online in a virtual meeting space! If you aren't ready to start your own, consider sharing these previously recorded and upcoming streaming "Repair TV" opportunities with your patrons:

https://repaircafe.tv/?gclid=CjwKCAjw5Kv7BRBSEiwAXGDEld_VThavkbf7ttsjp4i30Uz9RWy79b7L5RMqjzsLcBKX4kyG6Tc_ERoCZocQAvD_BwE

Slow Stitch Club

Like the slow food movement, slow stitch clubs focus on building community and practicing mindfulness. Programs where knitters, crocheters, and needleworkers (and other needle fiber arts) come together can be held online via zoom, or where weather allows, anyplace outdoors that people can spread out safely while social distancing. For more information on this movement:

<https://slowstitching.com/>

For more program ideas, check out the free program guide from ALA's Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change project:

<http://www.ala.org/tools/programming/climatechange>

Computers

Energy Saving Settings

I mentioned changing the power save settings on our computers, but instructions for changing these settings will be different depending on whether your library has Macs/PCs and the OS it is running. Take a look for tips

here: <https://www.energystar.gov/products/reduceitenergycosts>

Browser/Internet Searches

Consider making the switch from Google to Ecosia, and possibly even installing it as a widget on your patron computers or as a searching app on your devices, if that is a possibility for you. Ecosia uses the profits made from searches (via ad clicks) to plant trees:

<https://info.ecosia.org/what>

Books Referenced in Presentation

- *Drawdown: the Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* edited by Paul Hawken
- *A Field Guide to Climate Anxiety* by Sarah Jaquette Ray
- *Ecology, Economy, Equity: The Path to a Carbon-Neutral Library* by Mandy Henk

Look out for the upcoming ALA editions book *Sustainability in Libraries*, edited by Rene Tanner, et al.

