

ALA Council Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: January 5, 2024

RE: REPORT

CONTACT PERSON: Jensen Adams, Chair, Council Committee on Sustainability
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STAFF LIAISON CONTACT: Paige McLeod, IT Business Analyst [pmcleod@ala.org]; also appreciation for 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 virtually in July 2021.
- 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 the Public Policy & Advocacy Office, Public Programs Office and the Conference Committee; as well as with PLA, ACRL, AASL and other offices, affiliates, and divisions to work with their membership to contribute to sustainability-related outcomes and model best practices, and with groups and institutions to help lead true change.

REPORT:

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1. Hosted by ALA President Emily Drabinski in partnership with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, Rebekkah Smith Aldridge, a **National Strategy for Climate Action for Libraries** kicked off in December 2023 and will convene a closed working session at LibLearnX in Baltimore.

2. Committee members contributed comments on the criticality for **sustainability to retain its featured presence in the revised core values of librarianship**. The third resolved clause of the 2019 Council Resolution for the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship reads “Evolve accreditation standards to ensure the topic of sustainability is an inherent element in library school curriculum.”: In progress. **Sustainability has been found to only be accessible or addressable in accreditation standards via the core values** and DEI principles.

3. **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 registration in 2023-2024. The American Library Association has a robust event sustainability program in place, and best practices are being used at ALA events. In addition, a proposal to the Executive Board to incorporate carbon offsets into the cost of attending conference has been submitted. Conference Services and the Conference Committee reviewed the proposal to answer the financial impact it may have before considering implementation.

4. **The Committee recognizes the Office of Policy and Advocacy for their work to promote facility funding**, including federal, state, and local funding to green and otherwise improve the performance of library facilities and operations. In September 2023, U.S. Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and U.S. Representatives Jahana Hayes (D-CT) and Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) introduced the bicameral *Green Ribbon Act*, legislation that would further promote environmental education, health and wellness, and sustainability literacy in schools across the United States, and extended the act **to include awards and grant funding for nonformal learning institutions including libraries**.

5. SustainRT Turns Ten Years Old - **The Committee continues to celebrate SustainRT on their tenth anniversary of being a roundtable**. SustainRT provides members of the Association with a place to gather, learn and celebrate the work being done by library staff, librarians, teachers, Board members and others who are working on keeping our species a going concern on our planet.

6. Promotional partnership between ALA and the **Sustainable Libraries Initiative**: On-going effort.

2023-2024 ALA CD#37
2024 ALA LLX Meeting

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