

Living Our Values Out Loud: Programs that Walk the Talk

Sustainable Libraries: Resources and Webinars for Climate Action

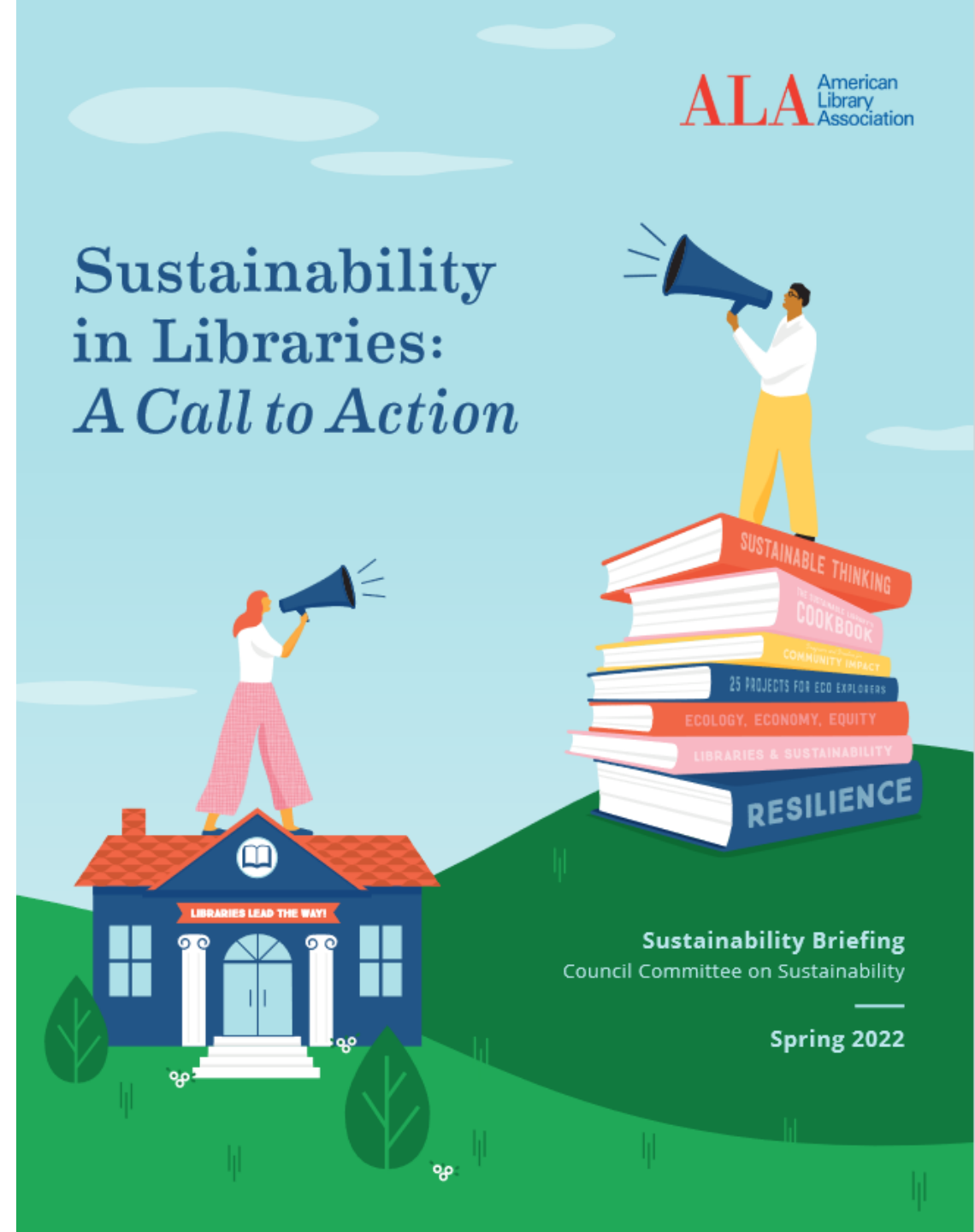
Moderated by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich





Image Source: National Centers for Environmental Information, NOAA

“**Climate change** is the single greatest threat to global health, a “**code red for humanity**,” and is this generation’s **grandest challenge**.”



ALA American Library Association

Sustainability in Libraries: *A Call to Action*



Sustainability Briefing
Council Committee on Sustainability
Spring 2022

Characteristics of Sustainable Libraries

- ✓ **Strong & Authentic Institutions that Live Their Values Out Loud**
- ✓ Catalyst for **Social Cohesion & Civic Participation** in Communities
- ✓ Working on **Climate Mitigation** (reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions)
- ✓ Active Participants in **Climate Adaptation** (strengthening community resilience)



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Core Values

- Access
- Equity
- Intellectual Freedom
- Public Good
- Sustainability



Council Report on ALA Core Values Task Force, June 2023

https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%2034%200%20Core%20Values%20Task%20Force%20Report_%20June%202023.pdf

Living Our Values “Out Loud”

- Mission, Vision, Values Statements
- Policy & Procedure
- Plans of Service/Strategic Plans
- Program, Collections, and Partnerships
- Facility Operations
- Messaging

“Purposeful
Design”



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Programs that “Walk the Talk”

Design

Core Values
Strategic Goals
Desired Outcomes

Implement

Sustainable Event Planning
Triple-Bottom Line Lens

Evaluate

Outcome-Based Evaluation
Alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goals
Contribution to Social Cohesion & Civic Participation



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Capturing Library Contributions to Sustainable Development Goals with Project Outcome



Capturing Library Contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals with Project Outcome

April 5, 2023



<https://www.ala.org/pla/education/onlinelearning/webinars/ondemand/sustainable>

Today's Panelists



Mandi Goodsett

Performing Arts & Humanities
Librarian / OER & Copyright
Advisor, Cleveland State
University (OH)



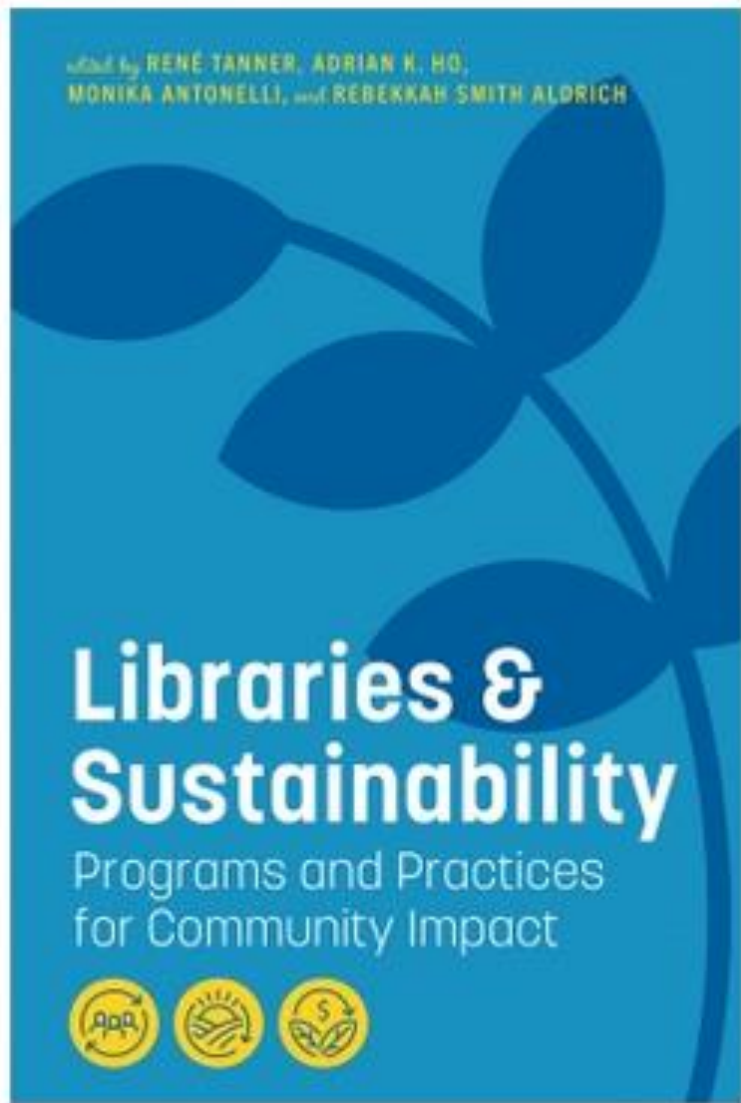
Evan Meszaros

Research & Engagement
Librarian, Case Western
Reserve University (OH)



Hazel Onsrud

Adult Services Librarian,
Curtis Memorial Library (ME)



Chapter 6

Sustainable Event Planning

for Libraries and Library Organizations

by **Evan Meszaros and Mandi Goodsett**

ALA 
Editions
Neal-Schuman

Sustainable Event Planning Tips



Communications & Promotion

- Establish a **formal commitment** to sustainability as a library/ organization (e.g. a policy or values statement)
- **Avoid waste** in marketing materials
- **Communicate:**
 - your commitment to potential attendees and to vendors
 - your previous sustainability successes!



Travel



- Consider **virtual/hybrid events**
- Encourage use of **public transit and carpooling**
- Make traveling to your library **by bike or walking** easier
- For folks traveling greater distances, offer **carbon offset** options

Food & Waste

- Include vegetarian/vegan/plant-based, organic, and/or certified fair-trade food and beverage options
- Choose locally-sourced food options
- Avoid food waste — order a reasonable amount and have a plan for leftovers
- Make waste streams clear (recycling vs. composting vs. landfill)
- Use compostable dinnerware



Swag & Giveaways



Sustainable Swag Self-Evaluation for Library Workers

Have you thought about the environmental impact of the swag items that you provide at library programs and other events? From the raw materials used to create the items, to the way that they are used, to their ultimate disposal, promotional items have an effect on people and the planet.

Libraries that purchase **sustainable swag** consider the social, environmental, and economic impacts of the materials that they buy. The rubric below can help you evaluate the sustainability of the promotional materials your library purchases.

Check out [ALA SustainRT's Sustainable Swag Rubric!](#)

Sustainable Event Planning Guide



Sustainable Library Event Planning Guide

A guide to reducing waste and improving sustainable practices at library conferences, events, and meetings

See our [Sustainable Event Planning Guide for Libraries](#)

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Adult Services Librarian,
Curtis Memorial Library (ME)

Want to suggest another sustainability program we should add to this list? [Suggest a program.](#)

Filters

Partner with community partners to host a film discussion program

Host a series of film discussions partnering with various community partners. Patrons come and watch the film then attend the discussion. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own lunches to munch while discussing the films via Zoom to share their thoughts.

Audience: Adults

Program Type: Educational

[More Details](#)

Solar Electricity Options for all Maine Residents

Confused about your solar electricity options? Bring your questions to an online forum about your new solar energy options. Learn about the many different ways you can utilize local solar power.

Audience: Adults

Program Type: Educational

[More Details](#)

Refill to reduce! How we can fight plastic pollution

Founder & owner of GoGo Refill, Maine's first zero-waste shop, shared information on the plastic pollution crisis, how it relates to the overall climate crisis and how we as individuals can make a difference.

Audience: Adults

Program Type: Educational

[More Details](#)

Worm Composting and Harvesting

Worm workshop hosted by Jock Robie

Local Snacks Global Issues

Program series of 6 programs titled Local Snacks Global Issues. Patrons

Global Recipes, Local Ingredients

A six week program series of global

**PROGRAMMING
Librarian**

A website of the American Library Association Public Programs Office

Budget - Any -

REFINE BY:

Library Type - Any -

Topic **Environmental...**

Age - Any -

Have a great program idea from your library? Share it with us.

[SHARE YOUR PROGRAM](#)



Operation Gardeners' Advisory

in Program Models

Tulsa City-County Library offers free seed bundles all summer and fall with themes like "Container Friendly" and "Eat the Rainbow."



Going Green in Seabrook: Sustainability Series

in Program Models

Going Green in Seabrook is a monthly program focused on sustainability and environmental topics.



Farm-2-Library

in Program Models

Southern Adirondack Library System works to get fresh food from farms to library patrons.



Bringing Faith Communities Together: Weather Emergency Preparedness at the Library

in News

New Ulm Public Library is working with local faith communities to prepare for harsh weather emergencies.



Recycle a Ton in 2021!

in Program Models

A school library planned this



Quick Program Ideas for Earth Day 2021

in News



Adopt a House Plant

in Program Models

Host a "plant swap," where people can get new plants, share cuttings, or drop off

Next up...



Sustainable
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WebJunction®



December 13: Stronger Together: Collective Impact and Climate Action



M'Balu "Lu" Bangur,
Chief of Equity and Fair Practice,
Enoch Pratt Free Library & Maryland
State Library Resource Center



Gabrielle Griffis,
Assistant Youth Services Librarian,
Brewster Ladies' Library & Blue Marble
Librarian (MA)



Jenny Garmon,
Civic Engagement Specialist,
Kansas City Public Library (MO)

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MLS, LEED AP

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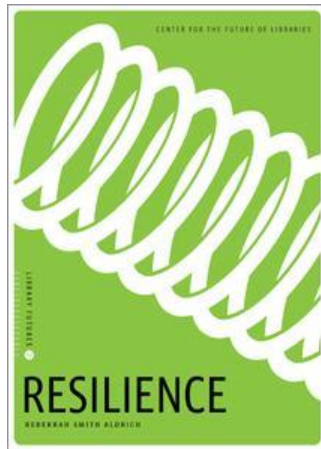
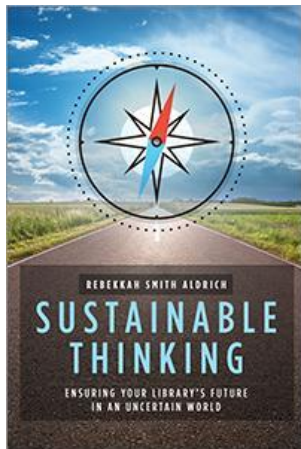
Executive Director, **Mid-Hudson Library System**

Co-Founder & Board President, **Sustainable Libraries Initiative**

Member, Center for the Future of Libraries Advisory Group, **American Library Association**

Sustainability Columnist, **Library Journal**

Author: Handbook for Library Trustees in New York State; Handbook for New Public Library Directors in New York State; Public Library District Toolkit: Strategies to Assure Your Library's Legal and Financial Stability; and:



Thank You