



Sustainability Policy

York Public Library is committed to the triple bottom line definition of sustainability: practices that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable. The York Public Library Board of Trustees recognizes the important role libraries play in larger community conversations about resiliency and a sustainable future. Library Trustees, Administration, and staff are committed to reducing our environmental footprint and promoting environmental stewardship at all levels of our organization.

Background

In 2019, the American Library Association (ALA) established sustainability as a [core value](#). In doing so, the ALA recognized the findings of a [United National Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) report, and made a commitment to the ["triple bottom line" framework](#) for sustainability as recommended by the ALA Special Task Force on Sustainability. This tripod consists of developing practices that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable.

Intention

The goal of York Public Library is to minimize our organization's impact on and maximize future generations' ability to live, work, and play in our shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources. The Library supports principles that ensure a resilient, sustainable community and Library for all residents. We strive for economic efficiency; to conserve energy and water; support renewable energy resources; minimize pollution and waste; protect habitat; buy environmentally friendly products; and encourage environmentally preferable transportation. These efforts are extended to contractor and supplier relationships. We will encourage but not require contractors and suppliers serving or otherwise acting on behalf of the organization to meet our standards of environmental performance. Employee understanding and involvement are essential to the implementation of this environmental policy. Administration and the Board of Trustees encourage Library staff to be proactive and apply sustainable thinking in the areas of facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming and partnerships.