

Sustainability

Organizational Commitment

The North Babylon Public Library commits to environmental stewardship and sustainable business operations. This includes, but is not limited to: 20k photovoltaic panels, upgraded HVAC and boilers, replacement of fluorescent fixtures with LED fixtures, window and door replacement, recycling plastic, glass and paper, use of environmentally friendly cleaning products, responsible use of water and fertilizers, and selection of water resistant landscaping.

The Library is committed to reducing our environmental footprint and promoting environmental stewardship at all levels of our organization. Our goal is to minimize our organization's impact 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.

We will strive to minimize pollution and waste, conserve energy and water, protect habitat, support renewable energy resources, buy environmentally friendly products, and encourage environmentally preferable transportation.

These efforts will extend to contractor and supplier relationships. We will encourage 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. All employees will receive a copy of this policy and be educated about our company's efforts to improve our environmental performance. Employees at all levels of the company will be involved in supporting our goals

Energy

To put measures in place to realistically and comprehensively reduce energy consumption, and improve energy efficiency in the Library with the needs for a safe, secure and inviting facility. This is to be accomplished by developing an aggressive and progressive approach for efficient energy use. The Library budgets in excess of \$65,000 for gas, electric and water. This results in a significant release of eCO₂.

Goals and objectives:

1. Planned reduction in the Library's energy consumption
2. Sourcing the Library's energy needs from sustainable sources, when available
3. Cultural change, sustainable energy management, collaboration with community agencies
4. Seek Energy Star ratings for future purchases

Benefits:

1. Reduce rising utility costs
2. Extend the life of equipment and facilities
3. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
4. Create a more healthy environment for our staff, patrons and the surrounding community

Materials Management – Waste/Recycling

The most effective way to address the library's waste is to generate less in the first place. Waste prevention offers the greatest environmental benefits and cost savings.

1. Reduce the amounts of waste generated by changing the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials or products.
2. Reuse of products and packaging prolongs the useful life of these materials, thus delaying final disposal or recycling. Reuse is the repair, refurbishing, washing, or just simple recovery of worn or used products, appliances, furniture and building materials.
3. Donate products or materials to others who need and can use the items

Materials Management – Purchasing

We will seek green purchases whenever possible.

Transportation

Sustainable transport is central to efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and environmental damage. The benefits of sustainable transport, however, extend beyond environmental considerations, delivering improvements in congestion, productivity, health and quality of life.

Land Use

Sustainable Land Management is a knowledge-based procedure that aims at integrating the management of land, water, biodiversity, and other environmental resources to meet human needs while sustaining ecosystem services and livelihoods.

Water

We will strive to reduce water use by maintaining drought resistant plantings on the property.

Community Involvement/ Partnerships

The North Babylon Public Library recognizes the responsibility it has to the community it serves and seeks to be aware and responsive to its needs by forming and sustaining partnerships with area organizations, agencies and businesses. The Library also recognizes that holding community events within the Library encourages individuals that might not normally utilize the Library to experience what the Library has to offer.

We seek partners whose goals most closely match the library's mission statement:

The mission of the North Babylon Public Library is to provide cost effective library services to the members of the North Babylon community. The Library exists to inform, educate and culturally enrich the residents of all ages of the district through the selection, organization, promotion and dissemination of information. The Library will continue to improve and expand the collection of materials and services available, and to continue to be responsive to the community's needs. The Library has the opportunity to make a difference in the community, the competence to do so, and the commitment.

The Library will encourage and facilitate management and the Board of Trustees active participation in the community on behalf of the Library by participating in community events.

Any agency that partners with the Library must have policies, vision and goals compatible with the North Babylon Public Library. The Library reserves the right to terminate an existing partnership with an organization that develops a public image incompatible with the Library or uses the Library's name without prior consent.

Management will maintain guidelines for entering into partnerships. Partnerships will be subject to the approval of the Library Director and/or the Board of Trustees.

Community Involvement II

If sustainability is about benefitting all stakeholders in the long-term, then community engagement can play a central role, helping the Library and their staff/patrons to understand and embrace issues, ensuring a positive impact on all stakeholders.

We are committed to preserving and enhancing the 60-year investment in the library and 50-year investment in the current facility, as well as evaluating the existing and future physical space needs of our community. We extend the life span of the existing facility by collaborating with all key individuals and groups. We address existing and new space needs at our current facility through renovations. We manage arrangement and scope of physical collections to support the learning and personal enrichment needs of the community. We evolve technology infrastructure to ensure delivery of reliable and secure connectivity and capacity for growth. We address in a sustainable manner emerging space and service delivery needs arising from community consultations.

Social Equity and Resiliency

The North Babylon Public Library is committed to social equity and resiliency – we seek to insure our staffing matches the makeup of the community. We actively seek minority staff members, and we have been reasonably successful in this venture.

We are committed to achieving racial and social equity by contributing to a more just society in which all community members can realize their full potential. Our library can help achieve true and sustained equity through an intentional, systemic and transformative library-community partnership. Our library is working to achieve equity in the communities we serve by:

- Eliminating racial and social equity barriers in library programs, services, policies and practices
- Creating and maintaining an environment of diversity, inclusion and respect both in our library systems and in all aspects of our community role
- Ensuring that we are reaching and engaging disenfranchised people in the community and helping them express their voice
- Serving as a convener and facilitator of conversations and partnerships to address community challenges
- Being forthright on tough issues that are important to our communities

The North Babylon Public Library is trusted, venerable and an enduring institution, central to the community and an essential participant in the movement for racial and social equity.

Public libraries are uniquely primed to provide important community information and referral services. This is particularly important during disaster periods, as was seen after Super Storm Sandy. The libraries across Suffolk County had universal increases in the number of patrons using computers to seek information and use e-government websites, downloading and completing FEMA and insurance forms, tracking down lost tax information and filing for unemployment. In some cases, patrons new to technology required training on how to use computers, set up e-mail accounts and navigate the Internet.

The term resilience is defined as “the capacity of a material or system to return equilibrium after a displacement.” This includes: economic development, social capital, information and communication, and community competence. When libraries embrace their role in community resilience, plans for assisting community members can be developed before disaster strikes allowing for a less haphazard response and a smoother delivery of needed services.

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