112: Sustainability

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The Northbrook Public Library believes that the natural environment is a key asset to our community, now and for future generations. We are committed to minimizing adverse effects of library activities on the environment, and to leading the community in sustainable practices.

In accordance with the American Library Association Sustainable Libraries (adopted June 28, 2015) and the statement on Sustainability as a Core Value (adopted January 2019), the library will implement practices that promote the health of employees, patrons, and the environment.

Operations. We will integrate environmental considerations into operating the library, including procurement of office, cleaning, catering, and landscaping supplies. We will prefer products that are non-toxic, biodegradable, made of recycled content, and reusable. We will dispose of library materials through channels for reuse or recycling.

Facilities. We will use natural resources, including electricity, gas, and water, as efficiently as possible. We will aim to reduce our usage of water and energy. We will upgrade to more efficient water and energy systems where feasible as technology advances.

Waste. We will minimize waste by choosing reusable products when feasible, and using compostable or recycled products when disposables are warranted. We will promote reusable products in the library among staff, patrons, and suppliers. We will choose products with minimal packaging wherever possible. We will minimize food waste by offering composting in the staff room and at library events.

Education. We will communicate our commitment to environmental quality to our staff, vendors, and patrons. We will encourage employee participation in environmentally sensitive practices, and support innovative strategies to reduce public programs on environmental topics and partner with local sustainability organizations such as Go Green Northbrook.

Continuous improvement. We will seek opportunities to improve our environmental performance.