



IFLA Section  
**Environment,  
Sustainability and Libraries**

# **ENSULIB Newsletter**



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# Message from the Secretary



Petra Hauke, ENSULIB Secretary

## **“Strong and effective” – ENSULIB once more awarded!**

The ENSULIB Standing Committee looks back on a very successful first year. We are proud once more to be awarded (the first time was in 2018) with a special mention in the Dynamic Unit and Impact Award 2022.

*“The jury recognised ENSULIB, a first-year Section, for its strong and effective global committee, who have shown excellent planning, a clear and effective communication strategy, including an active*

*social media presence and a series of widely-attended virtual events. They collaborate widely across the organisation, co-hosting events, large and small and working to identify places of intersection with sustainability and that of other IFLA Committees. The ENSULIB communicates widely to connect the public to the section’s work, including translation of the ENSULIB Checklist into 23 languages. ENSULIB has always been a very active and committed group of professionals who work across IFLA to maximise their impact.”*

Just before the IFLA WLIC 2022 in Ireland ENSULIB organised a Satellite meeting, hosted by Cork University College Library. Our co-organisers were the Management and Marketing Section and the Preservation and Conservation Section. The programme included interesting case studies as well as themes like marketing sustainable libraries.

The highlight of the Satellite meeting was the presentation of the IFLA Green Library Award 2022, attended by the winners from Singapore and from Paris, France and representatives of the short listed Green Libraries and Green Library projects from France, Belgium and the US. The winners and the shortlisted finalists for the IFLA Green Library Award 2022 have been published on the ENSULIB web page. We

are already preparing the IFLA Green Library Award 2023 competition, including updated criteria that will allow an even better response to the applications.

At the WLIC main conference in Dublin, ENSULIB hosted an open session together with the Children and Young Adults Section and a fascinating range of invited speakers talking about how libraries work with children and young adults on sustainability. More than 100 delegates visited the session and participated actively in the workshop as can be seen on our Facebook page.

We cordially invite you to follow ENSULIB’s activities and projects through [our website](#). Two recorded webinars were added after summer to our successful Webinar series, the list of Green Library Tools was finally published in October. These provide resources and stories to help all people working in libraries to learn, investigate, find partners and discover ways to get involved with sustainability in libraries. The definition of “What is a Green Library?” has been published in 17 languages.

And last but not least: we are very proud of our [ENSULIB video](#) which presents our different activities in the form of personal Standing Committee members’ statements. Have a look – and enjoy!

# About the Editorial Committee

*The ENSULIB Newsletter is published twice a year (June and December).*

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# Inspired and Engaged on Sustainability: A Satellite Meeting Report

Jacqueline Breidlid, Per Eide, Katharina Portugal, IFLA ENSULIB Section



Under the motto “Inspired and Engaged on Sustainability” the IFLA [Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section](#) (ENSULIB) with the [Management and Marketing Section](#) (M&M) and the [Preservation and Conservation Section](#) (P&C) held a Satellite meeting from 22–23 July 2022. The general aim was to inspire and engage libraries to work on sustainability and to broaden libraries’ awareness of sustainability within the library framework. The [Boole Library](#) in the University College of Cork, Ireland, hosted the Satellite meeting. The library itself has a strong focus on sustainability and was shortlisted for the IFLA Green Library Award in 2019.

## Open Science, Case Studies, and Marketing

[The programme](#) was designed around three main topics. After a warm welcome by the hosts and organisers Alan Carbery and Elaine Harrington, the first day started with a keynote titled “Libraries as a Lever for Sustainable Change”. Pat Mehigan and Martin O’Driscoll elaborated on how the University College of Cork and the library are committed to sustainability, how they engage students, and how they balance comprehensive services with resource-efficient operations.

The first session, chaired by Harri Sahavirta (ENSULIB), focused on Open Science and Sustainability. Six presentations provided a comprehensive and multi-layered examination of how Open Science can contribute to sustainability. Speakers from Italy, Switzerland, the UK, the US, and China offered high-quality insights into their work and current projects.

The second session, chaired by Jacqueline Breidlid (ENSULIB), presented case studies on sustainability and libraries. The audience learned about a green platform for coworking (Wikidata) and was presented with sustainable best practice examples from public libraries in Austria. Furthermore, the carbon footprint of libraries in Finland and how libraries can act as agents of climate change literacy was shown.

The first day of the Satellite Meeting was accompanied by a lunch with a great view in “The Hub” of the UCC, a guided tour through the Cork University College Library and a drinks reception in the Lavit Gallery.

The following day, the third session chaired by Jeannie Bail (M&M) focused on how to best market sustainable libraries. It started with the keynote by Loida Garcia-Febo titled “Leaving no one Behind: Marketing Sustainable Libraries” followed by practical approaches on how to tackle green marketing and examples how sustainability can be used for political advocacy.

## IFLA Green Library Award 2022



IFLA Green Library Award Logo

Finally, the stage was opened for the finalists of the [IFLA Green Library Award 2022](#). The 10 shortlisted projects and libraries in the categories “Best Green Library” and “Best Green Library Project” were presented – in person and virtually.

The winners of the IFLA Green Library Award 2022 are:

### Best Green Library

[“Revamp of Choa Chu Kang Public Library”](#) (Singapore)



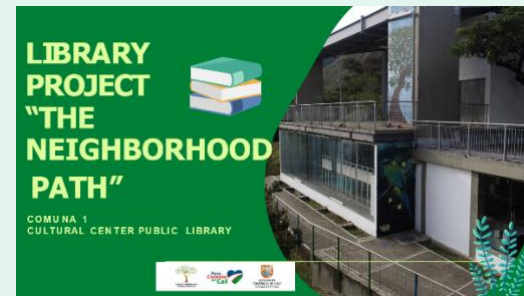
### Best Green Library Project

[“La Médiathèque de la Canopée : a Pilot Library for Sustainable Development for the Parisian Network”](#) (France)



**Special recognition** for a project carried out with minimal resources and that resulted in a large impact:

[“The Neighborhood Path”](#) (Colombia, Cali, Comuna 1 Cultural Center Public Library)



The Satellite meeting provided an overview of how libraries, both academic and public, from different parts of the world are working to adapt to the challenging times that lie ahead. Many extraordinary examples of how libraries can function as a catalyst of sustainability for the local community were presented. Providing access to up-to-date and verified information about climate change and sustainability is vital, teaching the community hands-on skills and the knowledge to live a sustainable life is key, and giving communities a media collection, both digital and physical, to explore, reflect and acquire knowledge on sustainability, the environment and on the Sustainable Development Goals is critical for achieving the United Nations 2030 objectives.

There is no doubt, that libraries can and should be a significant contributor to reaching the SDGs, and libraries therefore must be part of the political agenda. Libraries must market themselves as an indispensable institution for a sustainable future and a driving force for sustainable development.

These two days highlighted the important work of libraries in achieving the UN SDGs. It was an exciting conference where ENSULIB members, presenters, winners and runners-up to the IFLA Green Library Award had the chance to mingle and to exchange ideas – all while being hosted in the inspiring setting of the UCC-Library, which truly represents the concept of sustainability.

The full papers of all presentations are published in the [IFLA Repository](#).

# Conference Reports

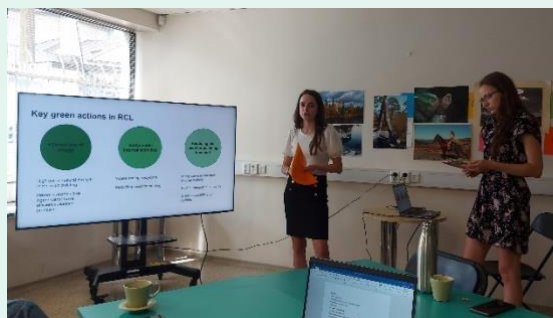
## New Library Specialists from the Baltic States Discuss Green Libraries

**Aiga Pīķe, Library Association of Latvia (LAL)**

On the August 18-19, 2022 the annual Baltic New Professionals Meeting was held in Tallinn Estonia. It was organized by the [Estonian Librarians Association's Young Professionals Club](#). The topic of the meeting was "Green Libraries". Success stories from museums, archives, and other information institutions were also shared. New library specialists from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania shared various examples of sustainable development actions both from the Baltic States and the whole world.

Meeting participants presented examples to demonstrate how information institutions in the Baltic States carefully consider their consumption of natural resources, take steps to consume less energy and resources, and incorporate sustainable activities within their daily work. Various educational events have been started for library communities, as have inter-institutional collaboration projects. The new library specialists concluded that information

institutions should do more to inform staff about environmentally responsible resource consumption. Libraries have an important task to promote societal awareness of green lifestyles by offering informational activities and educating users. Despite differing views across the countries and types of institution represented, all agreed that climate and sustainability issues are important.



LAL members Daniela Šterensus and Aiga Pīķe giving presentation "[Green actions in Latvian information institutions](#)" (photograph: Maris Nool)



Participants of the Baltic New Professionals Meeting 2022 in front of Tallinn Central Library branch - Laagna Library (photograph: Anton Kūūnal)

During the meeting it was also questioned how libraries could become more environmentally friendly. By working in groups participants developed achievable ideas that libraries could accomplish in short-term or long-term.

### Green ideas for now (in a few weeks):

- Reuse materials
- Start recycling
- Have less bins (fewer trash bags)
- Avoid disposable items (dishes, cups etc.)
- Do not serve meat at library events
- Reduce electricity usage (turn off the lights and devices if not needed, use conditioning only in hot days etc.)
- Search for green energy provider

### Green ideas for later (in a few years):

- Reduce paper use and digital waste
- Use less cleaning chemicals
- Have more plants, green outdoor spaces, and community gardens
- Build a green strategy, adopt green innovations
- Go zero waste
- Install solar panels
- Create a green office
- Establish educational programs
- Go vegetarian/vegan in catering

Participants of the meeting also visited some Tallinn libraries. Great green action

examples were demonstrated at [Tallinn Central Library branch - Laagna Library](#).

There is Seedbox in this library, which is part of library stock. Users can take various seed packets (from flowers to vegetables) as well as other library resources. Grown plants, their harvest or new seeds are not asked to be returned. A community garden is located in the library's yard. This provides the a green area and fresh air for library visitors. Residents of the neighborhood show high initiative and involvement. They assist in the maintenance of the garden and grow vegetables and berries themselves. Also, Laagna Library organises diverse educational activities related to planting and gardening, which helps to promote and popularise their Seedbox and community garden.

See more information about the Baltic New Professionals Meeting 2022 on the [LAL website](#).

*The Baltic New Professionals Meeting is an annual event in which new library and information professionals from each Baltic state (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) come together. The first meeting was held in Latvia, Preiļi on March 21-22 2014 [during the Conference of New Library and Information Professionals "4CanGurus"](#), organized by the [LAL New Professionals Section](#). In the following years the meetings have taken place in other Baltic countries (Lithuania in 2015, Estonia in 2016 and so on), and have been organised by the library*

*association of that state in collaboration with the host library. In 2023 the Baltic New Professionals Meeting will be held in Latvia, and will be hosted by a green library. The formal announcement will be published on the LAL website.*



Laagna Library Seedbox (author: Aiga Piķe)



Community garden in the yard of the Laagna Library (author: Aiga Piķe)

## Green & Sustainable Academic Libraries in the post-COVID Era (Greece)

Thalia Gonda, Ionian University Library



On 19-21 October, 2022 the Ionian University Library and Information Centre hosted the 28th Panhellenic Academic Libraries Conference, in Corfu, Greece. This year's topic was "Green & Sustainable Academic Libraries in the post-COVID Era".

The Panhellenic Academic Libraries Conference is an important institution for the Greek academic library community, and consequently for all Greek librarians, as it is a valuable opportunity for learning best practices and networking. After two years of real-time online conferences, this year we had the joy and opportunity of returning to a *real-life* get-together.



Drawing from the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the topic was developed along three main axes: environmental sustainability, social sustainability referring to diversity, equality, and inclusion, and sustainable economy with special reference to the challenges and opportunities for Greek academic libraries in the post-COVID Era.

We had the honor of listening to two special keynote speakers: Dr Petra Hauke, from Humboldt University in Berlin and Dr Konstantina Martzoukou, Teaching Excellence Fellow at Robert Gordon University (Aberdeen, Scotland). Dr Hauke presented on "Green Sustainable Academic Libraries Facing the UN Agenda 2030" and Dr Martzoukou on "Digital competences in Higher Education: an agenda for students' equal participation".

Twenty-one more speeches were delivered, along with three workshops in Greek language and two webinars, one of which was in English. Furthermore, a commercial exhibition was held, as the Conference gathered the sponsorships of all the major companies in academic publishing industry, along with several local enterprises. In addition, several social and networking events took place, as well as a Commemorative event for the 100 years since the 1922 Greco-Turkish war in Asia Minor, a book launch, a field trip to Capodistrias Museum, and an exhibition with the cooperation of the Institutes and

Embassies and Library of the Northern Countries in Athens.

The Organising Committee of the 28th Panhellenic Academic Libraries Conference organised a conference, which implemented principles of sustainability and reducing its environmental footprint. Efforts were made to promote the reduction of paper use, to increase the use of recycled materials, and to recycle the waste produced by the Conference. They also took measures to host an inclusive conference: all Conference venues were accessible to people who use wheelchairs; the two keynote speeches were interpreted in the Greek sign language, and an interpretation service from Greek to English and vice versa was available to all delegates; instructions on how to create accessible documents and presentation were given; and subtitles will be added to the Conference video.



Conference delegates and organizing committee

As the Organising Committee points out: "We were inspired by this year's conference theme and we hoped to lay the foundations for our annual conference to take care of these issues from now on".

*The proceedings and presentations will be published soon in the Conference's website. You can watch the Conference on our YouTube Channel. The speeches are delivered in either Greek or English language.*

#### **Resources:**

Ionian University Library and Information Centre Website: <https://library.ionio.gr/en/>

28th Panhellenic Academic Libraries Conference Website: <https://library.ionio.gr/palc28/en/>

28th Panhellenic Academic Libraries Conference on YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY2TTaDoz2ZePfy47UoE\\_ftNS-THI6BkA](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLY2TTaDoz2ZePfy47UoE_ftNS-THI6BkA)

28th Panhellenic Academic Libraries Conference on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1127731058046951>

## New Mexico Library Association Holds State Library Conference with Sustainability Focus (United States of America)

Erin Renee Wahl, Eli Guinnee, Kate Alderete, Conference Co-Chairs



At the end of October, the New Mexico Library Association (NMLA) held a conference with a focus on sustainability in libraries. Themed as LibrarySTRONG, the conference explored how libraries are: sustainable, thriving, resilient, open, network builders, and green. Taking a lead from the American Library Association's designation of sustainability as a core value of librarianship in 2019, this theme was proposed by several individuals interested in how libraries in New Mexico could consider and apply sustainability more broadly in their everyday work. This is particularly relevant to the NMLA organization as it launches into its 100th anniversary year in 2023, and considers the future of organization and librarianship. Over 185 people from the U.S. and Canada attended the conference.

Keynote speaker Suzette Baker shared her experience as head librarian of the Kingsland Library Branch in Llano County, Texas when county officials ordered her to remove "inappropriate" books from the library's shelves. Baker shared how an identity steeped in the value of information freedom, democracy, and social justice led her to protest these attempts at censorship. Baker was ultimately fired for insubordination, and has become a spokesperson against book banning in the United States.

Presentation topics ranged from green solutions for physical spaces, sustainable budget and collections initiatives, equity in libraries focused on BIPOC retention in the field, building partnerships in communities, including in rural areas and small libraries, and more. In addition to the normal takeaways from conference engagement, NMLA took the opportunity to test several new presentation formats (lightning talks and posters) and conference scheduling options (an expanded digital program and Google calendar), as well as collecting information from the attendees about ways they'd like to see NMLA embrace sustainability at future conferences.

Conference attendees expressed interest in engaging with sustainability topics in the future, shared new lessons and ideas, and showed support for their colleagues' work across the state and further afield. Attendees left thinking about sustainability in

libraries in new ways, starting conversations NMLA hopes to see continue in the years ahead.

Newsletter readers are invited to browse our digital conference program, available at: <https://nmla.org/Conferences/> Presenter name and institutional affiliation accompany descriptions, making it easier to reach out for more information if interested.

The New Mexico Library Association invites our friends reading this newsletter to consider attending our free one-day virtual symposium in spring of 2023, which will be focused on intellectual freedom issues in libraries and literature.

## Virtual conference "Yes To Green" (Egypt)

Maha Abbas, Bibliotheca Alexandrina

From 30-31 October 2022 Bibliotheca Alexandrina, represented by International Communication section, organized, a two-day virtual conference entitled "Yes to Green! Your Right to a Sustainable Future", in cooperation with l'Université Senghor and AIDUS alumni offices in Egypt and Africa. The theme was Green Libraries & the Role of Formal and Informal Education in Promoting Climate Change Literacy. The conference was held in parallel with "the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP27).

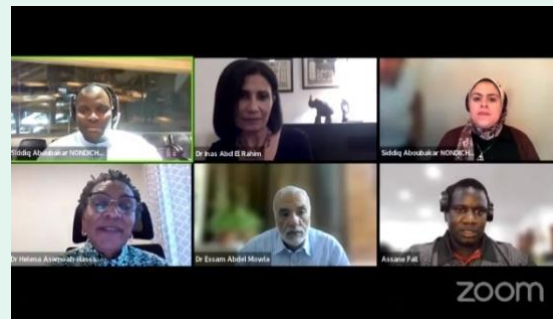
Eminent speakers and representatives from a number of well-known educational institutions and libraries across Africa and the world participated in the conference, adding value and providing global insights in responding to climate issues.



Conference “Yes To Green” poster

The conference comprised four main sessions over two days. In the inaugural session “The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations and Universities in Promoting for Awareness of Environmental Sustainability”, two main speeches were presented; the first by Dr. Moustafa EISherbiny, European Union’s Climate Pact

Ambassador, who discussed the role of climate pact ambassadors in reducing the carbon footprint; and the second by Dr. Amany Elsharif, Regional Director of Association of African Universities, North African office (AAU NARO), who gave an overview of the various actions and projects organized by both the AAU NARO and the African Union to raise awareness of the importance of environmental education.



Collective Photo to Speakers & Moderators of the second day of the conference

In the second session, entitled “Green Libraries, a New Emerging Trend”, Dr. Petra Hauke, Secretary of ENSULIB – IFLA presented on the topic of “Green and Sustainable Libraries Facing the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development”. Dr. Sylvia Ogola, university librarian at the USIU-Africa Library in Kenya, and M. Assane Fall, librarian and Director of Lambaye Learning Center in Senegal demonstrated their institutions’ achievements in receiving the IFLA - ENSULIB Green Library Award for best

green library projects in 2018 & 2020 successively.

In the session titled “The Role of Libraries in Spreading Awareness of Environmental Sustainability”, Dr. Helena Asamoah Hassan, Executive Director of the African Library and Information Associations and Institutions (AfLIA) discussed the role of African libraries in raising awareness of environmental crisis, and disaster management, highlighting the role of AfLIA.

Finally, M. Koffi Alinon, Dr. Inas Abd El Rahim, M. Mamadou DIOP from AIDUS Alumni along with Dr. Essam Abdelmawla, from the Arab Academy for Science technology and Maritime transport gave talks in the session titled “Africa, Crisis Management and Environmental Disasters” on green solutions for mitigating climate change with economic profit, innovations to support mobile livestock (pastoralism) to adapt to climate change in Sahel, climate change and health and coastal communities and climate change: nature-based solutions for coastal erosion in Senegal and West Africa.

The conference, which was attended by more than 200 participants, received extensive feedback.

The proceedings of the conference and the recordings are available on: <https://www.facebook.com/reseaufrancophoneBA>

# Spotlight on green literacy

## Croatia

### Reading list for children and young adults for promoting sustainable development

Ana Sudarević, Elementary school Dubovac

Sustainable development, green literacy and green libraries are among the key terms in school librarianship and they are practiced through green library practices such as book-readings, lectures, exhibitions, workshops etc. Because of that school libraries can become or already are environmental leaders in their schools as well as in local communities.

School librarians Jasna Milički (Elementary school Marija Bistrica, Marija Bistrica, Croatia) and Ana Sudarević have designed a reading list for children and young adults for promoting sustainable development. The List can be accessed at:

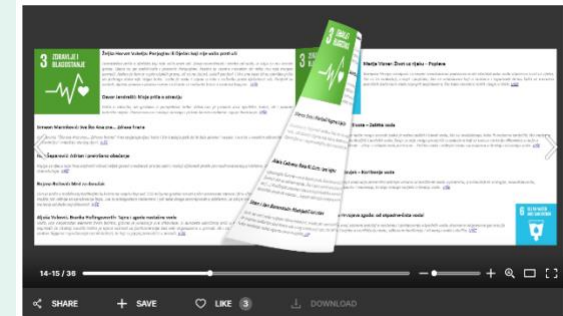
[https://issuu.com/knjiznica\\_dubovac/docs/agenda2030\\_reading\\_list](https://issuu.com/knjiznica_dubovac/docs/agenda2030_reading_list) and can be used by

librarians, teachers, educators, parents etc. The inspiration was the [UN's SDG Book Club](#).



Screenshot from reading list

The list consists of more than a hundred titles of literary works for children and young adults. It includes both Croatian and foreign authors. Titles are categorized in groups according to 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. Each title has a short annotation and a link to a web page with more information about the book and its summary. Books and picturebooks listed in this publication are mainly available in printed format but there are also some titles that can be read online. This publication is prepared and published on ISSUU platform and everybody is welcome to link to it.



Screenshot from the reading list

The main goal of this reading list is to encourage children and young adults to think actively and practice sustainable development by reading about it.

In the context of school libraries, the list can help a library to fulfil its green missions: (1) empowering its users to actively engage with sustainable development by choosing green literature as a core for educational programs and activities, (2) by offering its green information resources the library is positioned as an important partner in projects or programs in the local or global community.

**Table 1. Example of correlations between UN goals and cross curricular topics for elementary school in Croatia**

Crosscurricular Topics	UN goals (UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)
Sustainable development Learn how to learn The use of ICT	All goals (all titles on the List)
Personal and social development	goal 4: Quality Education (page 5 on the List) goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal (pages 34 - 35 on the List)
Entrepreneurship	goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (page 21 on the List) goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (page 22 on the List)
Health	goal 3: Good Health and Well-being (pages 13 - 15 on the List) goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation (pages 16 - 17 on the List)
Social studies	goal 1: No Poverty (page 3 on the List) goal 2: Zero Hunger (page 4 on the List) goal 5: Gender Equality (pages 6 - 7 on the List) goal 10: Reduced Inequality (pages 8 - 10 on the List) goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production (pages 18 - 20 on the List) goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions (pages 34 - 35 on the List) goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal (pages 34 - 35 on the List)

It is necessary to develop students' awareness and responsible behaviour when using natural resources and rational handling of waste. So, education for critical thinking and appropriate skills should start as early as possible as part of formal and informal education.

In the context of schools, this List can be integrated in subjects curricula, cross curricular (see Table 1) as well as in extracurricular activities, school projects etc.

## Denmark

### Sustainability in fiction for children and young adults

**Tanja R. Bisgaard, Publishing company KRABAT**

More and more children are worried about what climate change means for their future. The media often focuses on the negative aspects and the failures to find solutions, resulting in children and young adults experiencing climate anxiety. Anxious and worried young people might succumb to their fears, and in the worst case, be paralyzed by it. If we want the younger generations to participate in finding solutions for the future we need to give them hope

instead. That was one of the reasons for founding our publishing company, KRABAT, in 2019: we want to give children and young adults fiction that can contribute to creating hope for their future.

We believe that a good story can inspire and inform. For children, reading with a grown up, either their parents, grandparents or teachers will also create room for reflection. Therefore we decided to create our series of Klodebøger – loosely translated that is Earth Books. The concept is to publish stories that focus on nature, the environment, the climate and sustainability as part of the story.



Book covers of The Yellow Planet trilogy

Our first books were the trilogy The Yellow Planet (Den Gule Planet in Danish) published in August 2020. My founding partner, Helle Perrier is the main author and I contributed with fact about climate change and sustainability. We wanted to write a

series of books that showed the different consequences of climate change, and decided to start with drought. The Yellow Planet takes place in Bolivia in the future. The main person, Lyra, lives on the bed of a dried up lake. It could very well be the lake Poopó that used to be the country's largest. But even though Lyra and her family live in a desert, it is possible for them to survive. Throughout the story the reader encounters huge pipes winding through the landscape, bringing desalinated water to towns and villages inland. Food is grown in large domes. Water is found in deep wells powered by solar panels. Transportation comes in the form of electric sand-bikes. Surveillance is conducted by autonomous drones. All these solutions are already invented – some are more widespread than others.

The next book in the series is The Grey Planet (Den Grå Planet in Danish), published in November 2021. It was nominated for the children's book award called Orlaprisen – an award where the books are read and chosen by the children themselves. We are so proud of that – it goes to show that children find it exciting and interesting to read about serious topics such as climate change. The Grey Planet focuses on megacities in the future. The

story takes place in the slum area Makoko in Lagos. As we follow Sam on his dangerous mission, we experience the rich part and the poor part of the city. It is possible to build sustainable megacities for the world's growing urban population.



Cover of The Gray Planet

The third in our trilogy, to be published in August 2023, is The Blue Planet (Den Blå Planet) that takes place in the Kiribati Islands after they have been swallowed by the rising water.

For all of our stories we have provided facts at the back of the books with information about climate change as well as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We explain what we need to do to take care of our planet, as well as what has already been achieved. We have also create materials that can be used in schools by the teachers and the students. We hope we can inspire the younger generation to dream of what kind of a future they want, and then find out how to create it.

*KRABAT is a Danish publishing company founded by Helle Perrier, MSc Litterature, and Tanja R. Bisgaard, MSc Management.*

*KRABATs webpage <https://forlagetkrabat.dk>*

# Green, Sustainable Libraries and Projects

## Australia

### Mapping library activities to the UN SDGs

**Carmel O'Sullivan & Emilia Bell,  
University of Southern Queensland  
Library**

Since 2019 the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) Library has completed a mapping exercise with the United Nations (UN) [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). Developed in 2015, the seventeen UN SDGs are a call to action that aims to ensure that all humans can fulfill their potential, recognising the link between poverty, health, education, climate change and economic growth.

#### Why does UniSQ Library map our services to the UN SDGs?

UniSQ has carried out this exercise so that we can help staff identify how the services we deliver not only align with our institutional goals but are also furthering a sustainable future in a global landscape. While initially

our process centered the voices of our own staff, over time this exercise has evolved to bring in the voices of both staff and students as narrators, as well as collaborators from outside the University. Our process uses reflective stories to show how Library services, activities, and projects are aligned with the SDGs. In 2022 these stories have been presented in an open text titled "[UniSQ Library Stories of 2022](#)", documenting how UniSQ Library helped contribute to a more inclusive, sustainable, and equitable future.



## UniSQ Library Stories of 2022

University of Southern Queensland Library

#### How did UniSQ Library create the stories?

"[UniSQ Library Stories of 2022](#)" took an evidence-based and reflective practice approach, guided by the Library's Coordinator (Evidence Based Practice) Emilia Bell. Conversations, visual media, and written stories all provided tools for reflection and highlighted evidence to support the bigger-picture impact that our work has for people, the planet, peace, and partnerships. Many of the stories followed a *What? So What? Now What?* approach to reflection, helping to develop a narrative and consider how this impact might continue or change in the future. We consciously tried to make it easy for staff and students to participate by providing templates, and by having an option to just have a conversation with Emilia that could be recorded, and either the transcript or video used in the Stories.

#### What difference does this make to the way we provide services?

Giving staff and students an opportunity for reflection means that we can celebrate our achievements and identify opportunities to better respond and adapt to a continually changing environment. The reflections serve as evidence that our services are supporting people to reach their potential. This is a value that aligns with both the SDGs and UniSQ Library's own aim to enable students to develop the confidence and skills to reach

their potential and for staff to reach their potential as teachers, researchers, and professionals.

Initiatives like “UniSQ Library Stories of 2022” come about when we have a culture of evidence-based practice that’s accessible for everyone to participate in, and when time and space is given to exploring, experimenting, and reflecting. It’s the reflective and evidence-based approach to our work that’s provided opportunities to explore the SDGs and to try new approaches for communicating the value of the day-to-day work that staff engage with and that students experience. Making the UN SDGs have relevance and meaning for library staff undertaking different kinds of roles.

## Germany

### Library garden, planting and a ‘green welcome’ for our new apprentices

**Jonas Schramm, Janet Wagner,  
University library of Freie Universität  
Berlin/Library of Social Sciences and  
East European Studies of the Freie  
Universität Berlin**

This spring a group of committed people (library workers from “GreenFUBib”, scientists, students) wanted to introduce the

“[Blühender Campus](#)” (“blooming campus”) project to the surroundings of our library. In Berlin we currently have huge drought problems, trees die and soils get wasted. So we asked our faculty council and spoke to everyone we could find, and finally, we’re now able to promote biodiversity. How do we do that? We plant shrubs and trees, and we hope nobody mows any more like they did the past, creating dust, churning up stones and causing plants to stop growing.

We have planted insect-friendly plants and hope to discover returning species in the meadow next year.

With our new trainees we planted a pear in September 2022, sponsored by a colleague. Library staff planting trees?! Yes, everyone should commit to sustainability! After all, libraries know more about sustainability than some think... so we talked about it, worked in our little [library garden](#) and researched plants for our dry and sandy soil. The motivated apprentices did great work and we had fun!

Our trainees now have a first, very practical impression of what a “green library” can do. Initial ideas are discussed with the trainers for further project planning.



Project trainees planting a pear tree

In close relation to the content of the Education for Sustainable Development goal, there are currently many urgent recommendations from the scientific community to promote ESD through training and sustainability-related competencies in practice and theory.





Project trainees planting a pear tree and spending time in the library garden

Training management has created time slots for this in the practical training plan for all three apprenticeship years. This has been documented in plans for the first time. Thus, there are various opportunities for the broad topic "Green Library" to be taught.

We like the recommendation of education experts: to address trainees as "creative pioneers of change".



Project trainees planting a pear tree and spending time in the library garden

## Reducing Paper Consumption with "Scan First"

**Janet Wagner, University library of Freie Universität Berlin/Library of Social Sciences and East European Studies of the Freie Universität Berlin**

This fall, Freie Universität Berlin's libraries will be reorganizing their printing and copying services. This change will prioritize digital reproduction services over paper-based ones. These services will be free for all users. Below is an overview of the planned changes.

In its [2019 statement declaring a climate emergency](#), Freie Universität Berlin set itself the goal of attaining climate neutrality by 2025. The university library is also committed to achieving this goal, adopting

the university's [Sustainability Mission Statement](#) and [Environmental Mission Statement](#), and helping to support sustainable research, teaching, and studying. The [2020–2025 Strategy for the University Library of Freie Universität Berlin](#) defines "sustainability and responsibility" as one of the seven core values that guide our work across all Freie Universität libraries.

As such, the University Library and the directors of the departmental libraries have made the decision to follow what has become a national trend: replacing printing and copying services with digital options – i.e., scanning services – and phasing out paper printing in the medium term.

Free "DIY" scanning services for library users already exist in many libraries across Germany. Following suit, we will slowly, but surely be reducing the number of printing and copying services offered at Freie Universität.

This coincides with the expiration of our external service agreement with Ricoh, the company responsible for maintaining printers and photocopiers across Freie Universität's libraries. We are taking this as an opportunity to reorganize our services in the upcoming winter semester.

## What Can I Expect?

### DIY book scanners in all Freie Universität libraries

In the fourth quarter of 2022, we are hoping to introduce modern book scanners across all University Library locations. These will be available to use free of charge. Acting as a supplement to our existing [digitization services](#), these scanners will enable users to create their own digital copies of texts in a wide range of formats.

Compared with typical printing and photocopying services, this new approach provides a number of advantages:

- **Free** – Unlike with the multipurpose copy machines, all library users will be able to use the new book scanners for free. This means that calculating costs per page and having to pay for poor-quality copies will soon be a thing of the past.
- **Environmentally friendly** – Scanning rather than photocopying is a simple way of reducing one's carbon footprint. By creating digital rather than paper copies of documents, users can contribute toward creating a more resource-friendly study, research, and teaching environment – thus also playing a role in striving toward the climate goals of Freie Universität.

- **Sustainable** – in both senses of the word! Creating digital copies ensures that documents are made permanently available to all. Optical character recognition (OCR) means that digital PDF copies are fully searchable; furthermore, users can edit, comment, and share the files with others in a completely digital manner.

The new book scanners will allow users to easily export digital copies to a USB stick (“scan to stick”). In a further development stage, we are also looking into providing the opportunity to export digital copies to the cloud (“scan to box”).

Our expanded services will comprise a total of twenty-seven scanners, spread across thirteen locations. All scanners will be able to generate scans in up to A3 format; selected machines will also be able to provide scans in A2 format.

### What Is Staying the Same?

#### Scan tents for smartphone users

One way in which we are continuing to provide users with the opportunity to digitize printed media in a quick and resource-friendly manner is through our [scan tents](#), introduced in selected Freie University libraries in fall 2021 as part of a pilot project.



Scan tent ©Sandra Wawrzyniak

With reference to Freie Universität's [Environmental Mission Statement](#), we will soon cease to offer any paper copying services within our libraries. Should individuals wish to make use of such services in the future, they will be able to find their needs met by various commercial providers based in the vicinity.

# Indonesia

## “Goethe hot and spicy”

Fita Andrianti, Goethe-Institut Bandung

Chili in Southeast Asia is not only a foodstuff, it's also part of the culture. Its influence on gastronomy in many cultures throughout Southeast Asia is unmistakable. Chili's impact on the economy is significant. In Indonesia, for example, an increase in the price of chili may affect inflation, especially in the food, beverages and tobacco sectors.

In 2021, the Goethe-Instituts of Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand organized digital and local events about the sustainable use of food and urban gardening that focused on the chili plant. The project was titled “Goethe is(s)t scharf” (“Goethe hot and spicy”). The libraries of the Goethe-Institutes in Jakarta, Bandung, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Yangon took part in the project.

To spread the word about chili culture, its history and related idioms throughout the participating countries, a monthly contribution and stories were created in social media with graphic designers on-site. The project also featured two live talks: “Chili Culture in Southeast Asia and Germany” and “URBAN GARDENING – How does gardening work in the city?”.



In the first live stream on YouTube, experts from Indonesia, Germany and Myanmar spoke about the development of chili culture in Southeast Asia and Germany and considered the role of chili in everyday life. The invited experts were William Wongso (culinary expert), Petty Elliot (author & chef), Vincent Rumahloine (visual artist), Alexander Hicks (chili expert), Phyu Phyu Tin (judge and Myanmar master chef), and Ade Putri Paramadita (culinary storyteller) as moderator.

For the second live stream, the Goethe-Institut libraries in Bangkok, Jakarta, Bandung and Yangon sought speakers with different backgrounds and from different cities. Tim Schumann and Jens A. Geissler are heads of libraries from Germany who have shaped public libraries into institutions for the development of active social consciousness in addition to their traditional role. Sigit Kusumawijaya, an Indonesian urban architect, and Winartania bring

together communities with the aim of helping environmental non-profit organizations succeed. And finally, two Thai personalities: Veerawan Katanyuvivad, a contractor who has transcended the boundaries of cultivation in the densely populated urban area of Bangkok, and Pattarasuda Anuman Rajadhon, who is a well-known stage artist with a love for nature and who hosted the event. These nature lovers recounted their “green” journeys in the context of different regions and lifestyles and how gardening in the city was enabled in the digital age.

At the same time, the Goethe-Instituts involved in the project concentrated locally on the topic of nutrition and urban gardening. As part of the Chili Festival, in November 2021 the Goethe-Institut in Bandung organized events on the subject of DIY urban gardening, set up a themed area in the library, gave away seeds free of charge, organized the plant exchange, and initiated a starter kit for gardening. The Bandung Goethe-Institut has promoted civic participation through local partners, created a network, and organized a number of related events.

The project “Goethe hot and spicy” demonstrates the role of sustainable library work. Libraries as institutions and their staff can contribute to anchoring these goals in civil society and communicating the importance of libraries.



Urban Gardening at Goethe Bandung

## Ireland

### GROW it Forward: Help Fix The Future With Beans

Nell Ward, Grow It Yourself



GIY (Grow It Yourself) are a social enterprise that support people to live healthier, happier lives by growing some of their own food. Their mission is to educate and enable a global movement of food growers whose collective actions will help to rebuild a sustainable food system. They envision a world where all food is produced, distributed and consumed in a manner that is healthy for our planet and its people. (<https://giy.ie/>)

Research shows that when people start to grow their own food, it shifts their knowledge, attitudes and behaviour around food. It empowers them to make healthier and more sustainable choices. GIY call this Food Empathy.

GIY are a founding partner on a global initiative called Beans Is How. Working in partnership with the SDG2 Advocacy Hub, former White House chef Sam Kass and a wide coalition of partners, Beans Is How aims to double the production and consumption of beans by 2028. As a food of the future, beans, legumes & pulses are true heroes as a food source that support not only human health, but also that of the planet. They are a fantastic source of protein, they grow easily, and require little water. They help reduce CO2 emissions and fix nitrogen back into the soil, supporting healthy soils. We can all help 'fix the future with beans'. Read more about the Beans Is How initiative which launched at COP 27 this year at <https://beansishow.org/>

GIY are on a mission to bring beans into 5 million homes across the world in the next 3 years. Through their food growing programme GROW it Forward, they aim to distribute 100,000 bean kits through library networks. Each bean kit contains bean packs for people to share with four other individuals or households - creating a multiplier effect of 500,000 people in each region growing, eating & cooking beans as a powerful individual climate action. The

GROW it Forward programme will support people to start growing, educate them on the wonders of beans, inspire people to start adopting more sustainable behaviours, and measure the impact that this programme delivers in helping change behaviours and support pro-environmental actions.

GIY ran a GROW it Forward of education programme with the library network in Ireland last year, which resulted in 250,000 engaging in growing and sharing. Local libraries played the pivotal part in distributing seeds, engaging members, and reinforcing the critical role that libraries play in supporting food literacy and sustainability education. Members were engaged around environmental action, and the libraries as a source of knowledge & information.

GIY are currently seeking partner libraries to register their interest to take part in a GROW it Forward programme in their region. Contact [nell@giy.ie](mailto:nell@giy.ie) for more information

**GROW IT FORWARD BEANS IS HOW!**

**THE PROBLEM**

- Food production is responsible for almost a third of global greenhouse gas emissions, while habitat loss from clearing land for food production is the main driver of biodiversity loss.
- Agriculture is the largest driver of deforestation and land-use change globally. Clearing land for food production causes damage to natural ecosystems and reduces biodiversity.
- Food production is the world's largest water-consuming sector and its use in our food systems has more than doubled since the 1960s.
- Globally more than 800 million people remain undernourished, while diet is the leading cause of mortality in the developed world.
- What we eat matters and how it is grown and produced matters even more.

**THE SOLUTION**

Beans & their allies are a simple, affordable, nutritious option to clearly and healthily challenge GIY as a great member of the Beanry in their culture - an action towards a vision of diverse proteins - championing a global campaign supported by the SDG2 Advisory Hub, to achieve regional food goals.

**GLOBAL AIMS**

**BEANS IS HOW IS AN AMBITIOUS CAMPAIGN THAT AIMS TO DOUBLE THE GLOBAL CONSUMPTION OF BEANS (AS WELL AS PEAS, PULSES, LENTILS AND LEGUMES) BY 2028.**

**ABOUT GIY**

GIY are a leading social enterprise supporting families, individuals, schools, workplaces and communities around the world to live healthier, happier and more sustainable lives by growing some of their own food. In 2021, 1.2 million people engaged in food growing with GIY. GIY are proud to align our mission, vision and impact with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**OUR MISSION**

**A MOVEMENT OF 100 MILLION PEOPLE GROWING SOME OF THEIR OWN FOOD BY 2030.**

**BEANS IS HOW!**

- 1 Nutrition, affordable & globally grown.
- 2 An important source of protein.
- 3 Identified as a 'food of the future'.
- 4 Cornerstone of agroecology: good for soil health by fixing atmospheric nitrogen.
- 5 Easy to grow, they store well - a great learning gateway to growing other vegetables.

**FOOD EMPATHY**

Our research shows that when people grow their own food it shifts their knowledge, attitudes and behaviour around food. There are key sustainable behaviours that people adopt when inspired by the simple but powerful act of growing food. This is Food Empathy.

- Eating more plants\*
- Wasting less food\*
- Supporting local food producers & suppliers
- Connect with nature & understand the seasons
- Reducing food pollution

\*These are 2 of the highest impact climate change mitigation behaviours according to Project Drawdown.

GROW it Forward Infographic

**ABOUT GROW IT FORWARD**

AS PART OF BEANS IS HOW, GIY IS LAUNCHING GROW IT FORWARD, A GLOBAL CAMPAIGN TO CHAMPION 5 MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD TO GROW THEIR OWN BEANS.

A food growing programme that's proven to empower people to lead a healthier, more sustainable and resilient lifestyle. Planned in Ireland in 2021, with the support of the Government of Ireland in collaboration with the national library network, Grow It Forward inspired 250,000 to grow food for the first time.

**GROW IT FORWARD WILL DISTRIBUTE**

- 100,000 SEED KITS, REACHING 500,000 PEOPLE
- 5 MILLION PEOPLE GROWING THEIR OWN BEANS IN 3 YEARS, SAVING 17 MILLION KILOS OF CARBON

**THE GROW IT FORWARD MODEL**

- GROW**: 100,000 people directly engaged to grow beans. We send each individual or household a free GROW IT FORWARD beans starter kit that contains 5 packs of Broad Bean seeds.
- SHARE**: Seed to neighbours encouraged to grow it forward and pass seeds on to 4 other people or households. This results in 500,000 people growing their own beans. And so it begins! Challenge.
- ENGAGE**: Growers are invited to join the movement, creating a global network of growers. A QR code on the seed packets will link to a registration page to sign-up to get your digital growing guide and join the campaign to meet growing challenge.
- INFORM**: Key campaign messages needed to our bean growing community - diverse & sustainability, personal & planetary wellbeing, growing, cooking & eating experiences, campaign activities measure the impact & outcomes.

**UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF SMALL GROWING SPACES AROUND THE WORLD**

- 1 5 million people growing beans.
- 2 10 Countries.
- 3 17 million kg of beans grown.
- 4 17 million kg (17,000 tonnes) of carbon saved.
- 5 5 million m<sup>2</sup> of soil improved.
- 6 55,000 kilograms of nitrogen fixed.

**Engaging Our Growers**

- Weekly seed month, growing and cooking tips and tricks
- Weekly growing plans (e-zines)
- Step by step video content on how to grow and cook with Beans.
- Interactive content for social media (filming, pics and videos from GIY and campaign participants)
- Competitions: win a selection of prizes by sharing their growing journey on social media.

**PARTNER WITH US**

We are calling on financial and in-kind partners to help us reach our goals. Become a member of this exciting coalition.

- BACKBONE TEAM**: GIY, SDG2 Advisory Hub, Good Food For All.
- VISIBILITY PARTNERS**: National & international funding partners to deliver the campaign.
- DELIVERY PARTNERS**: National partners for fulfillment, localisation, and logistics.
- IMPACT MEASUREMENT**: Leading sustainability consultants & academic institutions measure the global impact.

**GET IN TOUCH**

WWW.GIY.IE

**Beans is How**

# MENA region

## Green Libraries in MENA-Region

**Marietta Sander, Goethe-Institut Tel Aviv**

The United Nations have set 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) that will create a better world, now and in the future. To reach the goals, every institution, including libraries, should prioritize sustainability. The project "Green Libraries – Middle East and North Africa (MENA)" does exactly that, it aims to include libraries in promoting sustainability. "Green Libraries – MENA" has set up a platform to highlight concrete contributions of libraries to achieve the SDG's. To determine the baseline knowledge and experience of the various library types, a survey has been sent to libraries in Israel, Morocco, Egypt and Sudan. A multilingual website has been developed with an introduction to the topic "Green libraries" and enrichment with content based on the results of our survey from 2021. Furthermore articles, best practice examples and helpful links are presented on the website.

The project ran for two years at a regional level and is to be continued locally at the Goethe Institutes in Tel Aviv, Cairo, Alexandria, Rabat and Khartoum. In the

future Erbil in Iraq may also be added to the project.

We encouraged the libraries in our region to apply for the Library Award, an initiative by the IFLA Green Library Award. Libraries can apply for this every year and receive an award of € 500.

In the last year, project-leading Goethe-Institut Tel Aviv had a cooperation with SINSILA, a sustainability center on top of the main library of east Jerusalem which also supports and nourishes a beekeepers' community. Two SINSILA activists gave us a planting workshop in our Goethe-Institut library with recycling aspect to it. The planting workshop included an introduction to the Green Library concept, information about cactus plants, how to care for them, and their adaptation to extreme weather conditions.



Green Libraries Planting Workshop in the Library Goethe-Institut Tel Aviv with the team from Sinsila project Jerusalem



Gardening Tool – the give away of the project

In October 2021 there was a planting workshop in Park HaMisila in Jerusalem where two of Sinsila's guides, one Arab and one Jew, taught us about methods of "cutting" trees and planting. This project brought people to plant together (regardless of their ethnicity) as part of a wider project called <Bostan4All>, which means "A garden for everybody". Both Israelis and Arab community members were involved, giving the project a peace-enhancing effect.



Treillion – the hebrew – arabic team in a planting activity for “Bustan4All”, i.e. “Garden4All” in Jerusalem

This spring we visited the project Wadi Attir; a groundbreaking initiative of a Bedouin community in the Negev desert, demonstrating an approach to sustainable desert agriculture that leverages Bedouin traditional values, know-how and experience with modern-day science and cutting-edge technologies.



Wadi Attir – our visit to a Bedouin community project in the Negev desert

All the projects we highlighted build networks and share skills of sustainable library work and are therefore connected with the commitments of IFLA. We are facing uncertain times, our climate is changing rapidly; to mitigate uncertainty we are working with local NGOs like SINSILA, Bustan4all and Wadi Attir. They are trying to build a green, liveable future by planting trees, building green roofs, and producing organic dairy products. But most importantly, they are doing the change with the community; raising awareness among marginalized communities and using indigenous and local knowledge to bring to a better now.

## Scotland

### National Library of Scotland launches Climate Action Plan

**Kate Wilson, National Library of Scotland**

In 2021 the National Library of Scotland launched a four-year Climate Action Plan, to run from 2021-25. This seeks to embed sustainability into the Library’s working practices, prepare for the impact of climate change, and enable us to progress towards achieving net-zero by 2045. In 2021-22 the Library achieved good progress or completed 59% of actions. Limited progress was made to another 17%.

An Oversight Group, with representatives from all Departments and Buildings, has been set up to help co-ordinate sustainable working going forwards. The group will review progress against actions in the Climate Action Plan, encourage collaboration and trouble-shoot any actions that are proving problematic. The group has reviewed the Climate Action Plan to ensure all the actions are still relevant and are the most effective way to achieve the desired outcomes for the Library. The Oversight Group is now discussing themed actions, including sustainability training, outreach and events, and partnerships with external groups.

We are keen that all Library staff can share sustainable ideas and help bring about change in the Library. A Green Team has been set up, which anyone interested is welcome to join, and the Green Team already have several ideas they are pursuing. We are currently developing a Sustainability Hub on the staff intranet to provide a comprehensive resource for staff, which includes regular news updates on climate and sustainability related opportunities for voluntary work, training and local events.

In the past year the Library made excellent progress against its Sustainability Targets, many of which have been met or exceeded (measured against 2008/9 baseline). In 2021/22 the Library:

- Met the Scottish Government target of a 75% reduction in Green House Gas emissions
- Used 53% less energy (target 40% reduction)
- Used 66% less water (target 25% reduction)
- Achieved 40% less business travel (target 20%)
- Sent 0% general waste to landfill (target 0%)

The Estates team are now updating our targets for future years to ensure this progress is maintained.

Other highlights from the past year include highly successful events around Cop26, including critical acclaim for our climate-themed Moving Image Archive film “Living Proof”. Improving sustainable practices in our procurement, business plans, and waste management processes. The Library has purchased three new electric vehicles, so that 75% of our fleet is now electric. A plastics workshop was held as part of Learning at Work Week, which looked at the problems posed by plastic waste and saw staff sorting plastic by type and then using a shredder and extruder to create new items.



**Living Proof**   
Director: Emily Munro | Countries of production: Scotland | Year: 2021 | Length: 98 min  
 Language: English | Age: 8+ years

Still from the film “Living Proof”



National Library of Scotland Electric Vans

Laragh Quinney and Kate Wilson were appointed as Programme Lead’s for the Climate Action Plan in January 2022. If you would like to know more about the Library’s Climate Action Plan or have any questions, please get in touch with us at [l.quinney@nls.uk](mailto:l.quinney@nls.uk) and [k.wilson2@nls.uk](mailto:k.wilson2@nls.uk).



# United States of America

## Organizing a Sustainability Swap at Your Library

**Ben Richards, Brandon Walker, Diane Kolosionek, Mandi Goodsett, and Donna Stewart, Cleveland State University's Michael Schwartz Library**

In the summer of 2022, the sustainability team at Cleveland State University's Michael Schwartz Library planned a 'stuff swap' for library staff. Stuff swaps allow individuals to gather gently used items from their homes and bring them in for others to freely claim, extending the useful life of these items and reducing waste in the community. A stuff swap centers the [triple bottom line](#) through encouraging waste reduction, strengthening community among attendees, and reducing the need to purchase claimed items for individuals. While the sustainability team kept the event limited to library staff for this pilot project, the event was successful in its smaller scope and the group plans to open attendance to more of the campus community in the future.

Planning the event consisted of setting expectations for what kind of items would be encouraged and accepted – the team decided that items from home would

ultimately have a wider impact than just swapping office supplies and would also lead to strengthening community bonds at work. To make the prospect of decluttering more appealing, the planning team also agreed to responsibly remove unclaimed items by donating them after the close of the event. This led to the creation of an accepted list that is consistent with many secondhand stores' own donation guidelines.

Marketing the event internally was relatively straightforward – email invitations were sent two months in advance. Consider announcing the event early enough to give attendees time to actively declutter if needed. On top of the decluttering opportunity, the group planned a Tea Party theme by encouraging sharing of favorite tea bags and baked goods. A Microsoft Teams channel was created to allow staff to post wanted or available messages for bigger items not necessarily suitable for the swap event, and a landing webpage was created to communicate details about the event as well as educate about sustainability resources in the area.

The event itself was held in August. Staff were asked to bring items in the day prior to give the planning team time to stage the donated items on tables in a staff breakroom. On the day of the event, staff were invited to 'shop' the swap all day long, with time scheduled for two hours where staff could socialize, eat and drink tea, 'shop', as well as learn how to make a shopping bag from a T-

shirt. While some staff were happy to socialize and shop in company, others appreciated the privacy to take what they wanted without others observing or to avoid a public gathering while COVID-19 is still of concern. The following day, the planning team gathered to pack up all unclaimed items to be donated to charity shops or otherwise responsibly dispose of them.



Example of swap items shared by a library staff member



Teatime goodies contributed by library staff



Swap event giveaways and signage

The event was very well-received by library staff, and many of the items brought to the swap found new homes. Offering a stuff swap at your library, whether for patrons or staff, is a great way to reduce waste, encourage comradery, and emphasize relationships over things.

# International Days Observed by the United Nations

## January–June

### January

- 04 World Braille Day
- 24 International Day of Education

### February

- 02 World Wetlands Day
- 10 World Pulses Day
- 11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 20 World Day of Social Justice

### March

- 03 World Wildlife Day
- 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21 International Day of Forests
- 22 World Water Day
- 23 World Meteorological Day

### April

- 01 World Seagrass Day, & Zero Discrimination Day
- 06 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
- 07 World Health Day
- 22 International Mother Earth Day
- 23 World Book and Copyright Day (UNESCO)
- 26 World Intellectual Property Day
- 28 International Girls in ICT Day
- 28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work

### May

- 02 World Tuna Day
- 03 World Press Freedom Day
- 12 International Day of Plant Health
- 14 World Migratory Bird Day
- 15 International Day of Families
- 16 International Day of Living Together in Peace
- 16 International Day of Light
- 20 World Bee Day
- 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

- 22 International Day for Biological Diversity

- 31 World No-Tobacco Day

### June

- 01 Global Day of Parents
- 03 World Bicycle Day
- 05 World Environment Day, & International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing
- 07 World Food Safety Day
- 08 World Oceans Day
- 12 World Day Against Child Labour
- 14 World Blood Donor Day
- 17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
- 18 Sustainable Gastronomy Day
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 26 International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 29 International Day of the Tropics

Above are taken from Annual International Days: [List of the official annual international days, that are observed or declared by the United Nations](#)