

SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY 2030 ROADMAP

Library contributing to UN Sustainable Development Goals

Introduction

An action plan for sustainable development was drawn in the Oulu City Library during spring 2020 by the name of Sustainable Library 2030 Roadmap. The plan is based on the objectives of the UN Agenda 2030 and the ecological promises prepared by the City Library in 2015. When preparing the roadmap, it was also ensured that it fell in line with the objectives of the City of Oulu's environmental program.

The Sustainable Library 2030 Roadmap recorded the most important areas for development in the near future and prepared a detailed implementation plan for them. The roadmap consists of four main objectives: promoting environmental awareness, reducing environmental impact, responsible construction and a sustainable library for the future, as well as two specific areas for development, resource-wise regional development and the promotion of remote practices. Central to the preparation of the roadmap was also reflecting the set goals to the goals of Agenda 2030 relevant to the library's operations. The set goals were also examined in relation to how they reflect the library's own eco-promises.

Main goals of the Sustainable Library 2030 Roadmap

1. Promoting environmental awareness

The aim is to increase the environmental awareness of both customers and staff through the various means of environmental communication available. The aim is also to increase the library's visibility as an ecological actor by communicating externally about the library's own responsible activities. The means of communication will comprise all available communication channels and means, such as press releases in various media, signs, trainings, events, exhibitions and book tips. Asking for suggestions and opinions from customers and staff can also increase their awareness of environmental issues.

2. Reducing environmental impact

The aim is to review the library's energy use, logistics, recycling and collection practices and to reduce the environmental impact of their operations. The aim is also to reduce the use of unnecessary plastic.

3. Responsible construction

In order to reduce the ecological footprint of library properties, the aim is to take ecology into account in connection with major renovations and new construction through the entire construction process, from design to the finished building. The aim is to design and implement the most energy-efficient facilities possible and to pay attention to environmental friendliness in all solutions related to practical equipment and interior design. Responsibility in construction is also reflected in, among other things, involving customers and staff in the planning of future facilities.

4. Sustainable library of the future

Responsibility in construction is also reflected in, among other things, involving customers and staff in the planning of future facilities. In the future, the aim will also be to pay more attention to promoting social and cultural sustainability and to ensure the continuity of the discussion. The sustainable library of the future will involve customers and staff more and more in the planning of its operations and thus strive to take into account different perspectives and opinions in the development of its operations.

Reflecting our goals on the goals of the UN Agenda 2030

1. No poverty

- The library offers its services and collections to everyone equally
- By providing access to information, the library promotes study, training, employment and inclusion, thus combating exclusion that can lead to poverty.



3. Good health and well-being

- The library's collection contains a wide range of up-to-date material on health and well-being
- Promotion of lending of objects (e.g., lending of sports equipment and musical instruments)
- Promotion of reading and music
- The library invests in the comfort of its customers in the library
- Promoting the sharing economy and civic competences (inclusion)



4. Quality education

- The library offers everyone equal access to information
- The library provides equipment, workspaces and learning environments to support study
- Promoting multi-reading and digital knowledge
- The library promotes lifelong learning by offering its services to all age groups



7. Affordable and clean energy

- Library energy saving measures (e.g., water-saving nozzles, LED lighting, lighting with motion detectors)
- Energy-efficient use of premises (e.g., multi-purpose buildings, the future libraries will be even more energy-efficient)
- Use of solar energy
- The library's construction projects aim to take into account energy-efficient and ecological alternatives in energy solutions as well as in the interior design and details of the premises.



9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- The development of co-operation and operating models will help to build a more efficient library network
- Both library staff and customers benefit from an extensive network and the sharing of knowledge
- Promoting remote meetings and training
- Development of remote practises



10. Reduced inequalities

- Equality is the fundamental principle of the public library
- The library is seen as a safe, low-threshold place where people from different socio-economic backgrounds can meet each other



11. Sustainable cities and communities

- The library is an integral part of basic services from both a social and cultural perspective
- The library nurtures cultural heritage by preserving local documentation for future generations



12. Responsible consumption

- The basic idea of the library, borrowing, supports responsible consumption
- Library material circulates: one book can be borrowed up to a hundred times
- Library material "floats": customers can borrow books from any Oulu City Library branch and return them to any branch, from where they can again be borrowed directly on to subsequent customers
- The life cycle of the book from procurement to recycling is managed with careful consideration
- Promoting the sharing economy (including object loans)
- Consideration of ecology in all procurements
- Renovation and reuse of old, usable furniture in the library, e.g., in the renovated premises



13. Climate action

- Promoting environmental awareness and communication supports sustainable development and is in itself a climate act.
- All measures aimed at reducing the environmental impact, if implemented, are climate actions, such as reducing the use of plastic, improving sorting, promoting remote practises, creating a roadmap and a commitment to continuous improvement.



16. Peace and justice, strong institutions

- The library defends democracy and promotes equal treatment for all
- Operational and service decisions are made by assessing their impact on all customer groups
- The library's management is committed to the goals of sustainable development and wants it to be an essential and visible part of the library's operations in the future as well



17. Partnerships for the goals

- The library co-operates with various actors and partners and thus also contributes to the efforts done for sustainable development
- The development of co-operation and operating models will help to build a more efficient library network
- Both library staff and customers benefit from an extensive network and the sharing of knowledge

