

Public Libraries as Environmentally Responsible Actors

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ENSULIB: 10 Years of Environmental Work and a Shift

Sustainability - economical, environmental, social
(and human)
(= Profits, planet, and people)

Green or sustainable library – building (and economy),
social responsibility, environment

→ **Building, responsibility, information services, new economy**

Green Library as a Green Building

Location – accessibility
Energy – heating, cooling, air ventilation
Water – saving, recycling
Light – natural light, LED
Waste – sorting and recycling
Interior design – recycling, durability
Equipment – shared devices

- Key concepts: **decreased consumption and recycling**
- **Measurable results:** easy to verify
- Economic aspect: decreasing expenses = **saving money**
- **Technical aspect: architects, engineers, house keepers in charge.**

Sustainable Library as a Socially Responsible Actor

- Literacy
- Access to reliable and updated information
 - Education: children and youth
 - Equality
 - Poverty and hunger

Environmental awareness requires information and information skills

→ Children, women, uneducated

Environmentally responsible action requires (higher) standards of living → If you are hungry, you do not think about the environment

But higher standards of living = consumption → waste

Green Librarianship and library services

Circulating the collections and recycling delated items
Easy access to reliable and updated information
Displaying environmental issues
Shared spaces and devices
Advocating environmental values – opinion leadership

**What it is we do best in libraries? What belongs to our work?
What are our expertises? How do we run libraries?**

Environmentally friendly core with plastic covers?

Environmental information hided by the classification system?

Green Library in the Light of SDGs

- National and municipal strategies – carbon-neutral Finland 2035
 - Carbon footprint & handprint
 - Sustainable road map
 - Sharing economy – to use is more important than to own
 - Circular economy – using services and recycling materials
- Sustainable development goals compel to think about sustainability in libraries from a broader perspective. What does Quality education or Gender equality mean for libraries? Or Sustainable cities and communities? Or Climate action?

Thank you!