Sustainable Thinking

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Coordinator for Library Sustainability, Mid-Hudson Library System
“…trustees must always be mindful of how their decisions impact the lives of people and the future of their community.”

-Bernard A. Margolis, State Librarian and Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, Preface to the Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State
Vital
Visible
Viable
“Use of public libraries drifts down…”

-The Pew Research Center, April 7, 2016
JUST SAY NO TO CRAZY CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUT THE NEW LIBRARY
Self-Actualization
You are living to your highest potential

Esteem
You've acquired the skills that lead to honor and recognition

Love & Belonging
Achieving deeper, more meaningful relationships

Safety
Home, sweet home

Physiological Needs
Food, water, sleep

Graphic: Mlko Casagrande
“Assessing & Managing Risks”

Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability.
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nations
“Social equity and community contribute to resilience. Strong, culturally diverse communities in which people know, respect, and care for each other will fare better during times of stress or disturbance. Social aspects of resilience can be as important as physical responses.”

The Resilient Design Principles, ResilientDesign.org
Strategy: Defined

Create a sustainable competitive advantage... by "deliberately choosing a different set of activities to deliver unique value."

-Michael Porter, Competitive Strategy
WHAT IS SUSTAINABILITY?
Triple Bottom Line

- Sustainable
- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible
Sustainable Libraries

Sustainable Communities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Regenerative:</strong></th>
<th>to bring new, energetic life</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resilient:</strong></td>
<td>to bounce back after disruption</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sustainable:</strong></td>
<td>to endure</td>
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Sustainable thinking **aligns** a library's core values and resources with the local and global community's **right to endure**, **bounce back from disruption** and to **thrive** by bringing **new and energetic life** to fruition **through choices made in all areas of library operations and outreach**.
Core Values of Librarianship, American Library Association

- Access
- Confidentiality/Privacy
- Democracy
- Diversity
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Intellectual Freedom
- Preservation
- The Public Good
- Professionalism
- Service
- Social Responsibility
We love local
Empower
Engage
Energize
1. What kind of **community** do you want to live in?

2. Why is that **important to you**?

3. How is that **different** from how you see things now?

4. What are some of the things that need to happen to create that kind of change?
Hello
my name is
Opportunity
You must be the change you wish to see in the World.
Find more inspiration through Sustainability Spotlights (NYLA): http://www.nyla.org/sustainability
You've got to think about big things while you're doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction.

-Alvin Toffler, futurist
Resolutions on the Importance of Sustainable Libraries
“Planning for the future should incorporate the core value of sustainability.”

Our Values represent our most deeply held beliefs.

EXCELLENCE
We cultivate a culture of excellence, holding ourselves accountable to a high standard. We support people in achieving their highest potential.

INCLUSIVENESS
We practise inclusiveness by respecting, reflecting and appreciating the diversity in our community.

INNOVATION
We continuously learn and improve by seeking new ways of being, seeing and doing.

SUSTAINABILITY
We manage our resources responsibly to maintain financial, social and environmental sustainability for the well-being of our community.

TRUST
We conduct ourselves openly and with integrity.
SUSTAINABLE THINKING.
Invest in Success!

Stay Inspired!

Keep Learning!
Resources

• Handbook for Library Trustees of New York State
  by Jerry Nichols & Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

• Sustainability Initiative (NYLA-SI)
  nyla.org/sustainability

• Libraries Transforming Communities (ALA)
  ala.org/transforminglibraries
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Thank You