

Climate Smart Community Library Pledge

September 16, 2010 Trustee Paul Werbalowsky moved and Trustee Edwin Pell seconded that:

WHEREAS, the City of Kingston passed a Climate Smart, Green Jobs Pledge on October 6, 2009 and Kingston Library would like to show support for that Pledge and; WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Kingston Library understands that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger the world's infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm farms, orchards, ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our community's citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our local response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to contribute to livable, energy-independent and secure communities, and vibrant innovation economies; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,

WHEREAS, we understand that public libraries are good stewards of public dollars and therefore should investigate and invest in energy efficient cost saving option,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Kingston Library, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate will take certain steps.

1. Planning

- Set goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to predicted climatic changes.
- Encourage stakeholder and public input by establishing an advisory committee to review the issues and propose a plan of action including facility operations and library programming. Recognize that climate mitigation and adaptation requires behavior change and actions by the Board, Director, staff and library patrons.
- Designate a joint staff-Board sub-committee who will oversee climate change initiatives and publicly report on progress.

- Work cooperatively with national, state and local initiatives, including the City of Kingston's Climate Smart Communities and Green Jobs Pledge, to ensure that efforts complement and reinforce one another.
- Integrate climate change considerations into library activities, policies and long term planning. Inform and inspire the public.

2. Library Facility Operations

- Gather data through an inventory of GHG gas emissions from electricity and natural gas usage, waste production, water use and other sources to establish baselines for Library operations. Set up a procedure to regularly collect data.
- Develop quantifiable interim GHG emission targets consistent with emission reduction goals such as Renewable Energy Task Force Plan (2008) goal of reducing electricity use by 15% from projected levels no later than 2015, NYS Governor's Executive Order 24, which creates a NYS goal to reduce NYS GHG emissions by 80% of 1990 levels by 2050 and NYS Governor's "45 by 15" initiative, which requires New York to meet 45 percent of its electricity needs through renewable energy and improved building energy efficiencies by 2015.
- Develop an emission reduction plan that details how to achieve the targets, and includes a schedule. The plan should address:
 - Energy conservation and efficiency retrofits
 - Renewable energy
 - Solid waste source reduction, reuse, recycling and other smart solid waste management practices
 - Water conservation
 - Actions that affect or influence the community
 - Purchasing policies for procuring climate smart goods and services.
- Carry out plans to reduce emissions, evaluate progress and make changes as required.

3. Library Programs

- Integrate climate change actions into library programs to inspire and engage patrons and the community.
- Provide opportunities to support community climate change mitigation and adaptation actions and a green innovative economy by providing climate-change related library materials, programming and other resources that will help community businesses and residents learn about climate protection, sustainability, and environmental goods and services.
- Lead by example, by highlighting the Library's commitment to reducing energy use, saving tax dollars, and adapting to changing conditions. Report GHG emissions and targets to Library patrons and constituents.
- Demonstrate the benefits of recycling, water conservation, stormwater management, energy savings, energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects by regularly communicating goals and progress to patrons and stakeholders.
- Provide opportunities for the community to reduce their carbon footprint such as encouraging walking, bicycling, carpooling, and public transit for employees and patrons or by discouraging vehicle idling in the parking lot.
- Compare successes, cooperate and collaborate with community and neighboring library's efforts to redirect less-effective actions and amplify positive results.

4. Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change

- Consider the risks and the Library's vulnerability to unavoidable climate change and factor them into long-term decision-making. Climate change impacts that could affect the Library include increased stormwater and flooding, drought, and extreme and prolonged summer temperatures.
- Use guidance and recommendations from NYS Climate Action Plan and other resources.

5. An Evolving and Adaptive Process

- Acknowledge that research and policy on climate protection are constantly improving and evolving.
- Be willing to consider new ideas and commit to update plans and policies as needed.
- Monitor and evaluate progress and make changes as warranted.