



Northport-East Northport Public Library

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SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The Library acknowledges and values the important role it plays as a model and a leader in the community both today and for the future. The Library Board of Trustees, Administration, and staff are committed to reducing the Library's environmental footprint and promoting environmental stewardship at all levels of the organization. Our goal is to minimize the organization's environmental impact and maximize future generations' ability to live, work, and play in our shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources.

The Library supports sustainable principles that ensure a resilient, sustainable community and Library for all residents. We strive to maximize economic efficiency, conserve energy and water, support renewable energy resources, minimize pollution and waste, protect habitat, buy environmentally-friendly products, and encourage environmentally-preferable transportation. These efforts are also extended to our contractor and supplier relationships.

Environmentally-friendly purchasing adds considerations to the price and performance criteria that organizations use to make purchasing decisions. Environmentally-friendly purchasing considers supply chain management and is also known as environmentally preferred purchasing (EPP), green procurement, affirmative procurement, eco-procurement, and environmentally responsible purchasing. Environmentally-friendly purchasing attempts to identify and reduce environmental impact and to maximize resource efficiency. Within the confines of the State General Municipal Law and Education Law, the Library acknowledges the following:

Guiding Purchasing Principles

- Consider environmental factors in addition to price and performance.
- Emphasize pollution prevention early in the purchasing process. Consider packaging and whether the product contains or produces toxins.
- Examine multiple environmental attributes throughout a product's or service's life cycle. Look at the whole life of the product, from manufacture through use and disposal.
- Compare relative environmental impacts when selecting products and services.
- Collect and consider purchasing decisions on accurate and meaningful information about environmental performance.

Employee understanding and involvement are essential to the successful implementation of this policy. Library staff are encouraged to be proactive and apply sustainable thinking in the areas of their facilities, operations, procedures, technology, programming, and partnerships. The Library strives toward the "triple bottom line" definition of sustainability: using practices that are *environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable*. For additional information on the Northport-East Northport Public Library's commitment to sustainability refer to the Library's *Sustainable Community Resiliency Policy*.

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