



# The Green Librarian Handbook

A guide for libraries to lead sustainable change in Europe



## Symphony in Sustainability Major



European Bureau of Library, Information  
and Documentation Associations



Co-funded by  
the European Union

August 2025

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## How to cite:

García Rodríguez, M. I., Lapardina, B., Mercadal, D., Peña, A., & Toril, R. (2025). *The Green Librarian Handbook: A guide for libraries to lead sustainable change in Europe. Symphony in Sustainability Major*. EBLIDA. All ELAN resources are licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/).


# Table of Content

List of abbreviations .....	2
0. Prelude: A Message from the Director.....	4
1. Overture: Why We Need Green Librarians .....	5
2. The Score: How to Play Sustainability .....	6
3. Movement I: Policies that Shape the Sound .....	9
3.1. World Music: International General Environmental Policies.....	9
3.2. Solo Parts: Sectoral Environmental Policies.....	14
4. Movement II: Tools and Resources .....	29
4.1. Exposition: Awards and Recognitions .....	30
4.2. Development: Funding Programmes .....	37
4.3. Recapitulation: Work Methodologies .....	44
4.4. Coda: Resources .....	52
5. Movement III: Best Practices .....	58
5.1. Infrastructures: Building.....	58
5.2. Networks and Work Groups.....	64
5.3. Libraries of Things: Access to Shared Community Resources.....	67
5.4. Inclusion and Social Justice .....	70
5.5. Dissemination of SDGs .....	74
5.6. Art.....	77
5.7. Advocacy .....	79
5.8. Community involvement.....	82
5.9. Environmental Education / Rural Communities.....	87
6. Movement IV: Readings to Improve the Performance .....	94
7. Bonus Tracks: The Green Librarian Playlist .....	100
8. Finale: Acknowledgments and Invitation to Join .....	109

## List of abbreviations

<b>ACU</b>	=	Association of Commonwealth Universities
<b>AI</b>	=	Artificial Intelligence
<b>ALA</b>	=	American Library Association
<b>AUF</b>	=	Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie
<b>CAP</b>	=	Common Agricultural Policy
<b>CENEAM</b>	=	National Centre for Environmental Education ( <i>Centro Nacional de Educación Ambiental</i> )
<b>CILIP</b>	=	Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
<b>CINEA</b>	=	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
<b>CSA</b>	=	Coordination and Support Action
<b>DG EAC</b>	=	Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
<b>DG REGIO</b>	=	Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy
<b>DG RTD</b>	=	Directorate-General for Research and Innovation
<b>DG</b>	=	Directorate General
<b>EACEA</b>	=	Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency
<b>EAP</b>	=	Environmental Action Programme
<b>EAUC</b>	=	Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges
<b>EBLIDA</b>	=	European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations
<b>ELAN</b>	=	European Library Associations Network
<b>EMS</b>	=	Environmental Management System
<b>ERDF</b>	=	European Regional Development Fund
<b>ETS</b>	=	Emissions Trading System
<b>EU</b>	=	European Union
<b>EUSEW</b>	=	European Sustainable Energy Awards
<b>IA</b>	=	Innovation Action
<b>IAU</b>	=	International Association of Universities

<b>IFLA</b>	=	International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions
<b>IFLA/ENSULIB</b>	=	IFLA's Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section
<b>LGBTQ+</b>	=	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, plus
<b>NEB</b>	=	New European Bauhaus
<b>NGO</b>	=	Non-governmental Organisation
<b>REBIUN</b>	=	Spanish Network of Academic and Scientific Libraries ( <i>Red de Bibliotecas Universitarias y Científicas Españolas</i> )
<b>RECIDA</b>	=	Spanish Network of Environmental Information and Documentation Centres ( <i>Red de Centros de Información y Documentación Ambiental</i> )
<b>RIA</b>	=	Research and Innovation Action
<b>SDG / SDGs</b>	=	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UN</b>	=	United Nations
<b>UNDP</b>	=	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNEP</b>	=	United Nations Environmental Programme



## Prelude: A Message from the Director

It is with great joy and a deep sense of purpose to be able to present the EBLIDA/ELAN publication *The Green Librarian Handbook: Symphony in Sustainability Major*. This is more than just a handbook; it is a call to action and an invitation to reimagine what our libraries can be in a time of profound environmental and social change.

Libraries are, at their heart, places of learning and individual growth. We open doors to knowledge, foster creativity, and nurture communities. Yet in today's world, learning, knowledge and information should be coupled with responsibility. The climate emergency, the loss of biodiversity, the pressures on our cities and rural areas - these challenges affect us all, and they cannot be ignored. Libraries, with their long tradition of public service and their deep roots in local communities, are uniquely placed to make a difference. We may not have the loudest voice in global debates, but we have something just as powerful: trust, continuity, and presence in the everyday lives of millions of citizens across Europe.


This handbook reminds us that sustainability is not just about buildings or energy use - although these are important. It is about the choices we make every day, large and small. It is about ensuring that the resources we manage today do not compromise tomorrow. It is about empowering the communities we work for and with to understand the challenges of our time and to find ways of responding, together. A "green library" is not defined by a single standard; it is a library that dares to align its values with care for people, planet, and the future.

What inspires me most about this publication is the wealth of practical examples and stories it contains. Across Europe, libraries are already finding imaginative ways to engage from community gardens to tool-lending schemes, from exhibitions on climate change to partnerships with local schools. These best practices show us that the path to sustainability is not uniform—it is creative, flexible, and rooted in local needs. They remind us that every library, no matter its size or resources, can contribute to a greener, fairer world.

Sustainability is also about inclusion and inclusive communities. It is about ensuring that no voice is left unheard, that no community is left behind. A truly sustainable library is one that makes space for dialogue, nurtures solidarity, and provides access to knowledge that empowers citizens to shape their own futures. In this sense, our environmental mission is inseparable from our social mission.

I hope that you will approach this handbook not only as a guide, but as a companion. Let it inspire you to take the first step - or the next step - in your own library's journey. Share your successes, learn from others, and join the growing movement of libraries across Europe who are weaving sustainability into the very fabric of their work.

**Andrew Cranfield**, EBLIDA Director, October 2025



# Overture: Why We Need Green Librarians

The [European Library Associations Network \(ELAN\)](#), coordinated by the [European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations \(EBLIDA\)](#), is a space where library associations from across Europe come together to grow stronger, learn from one another, and cultivate shared progress. ELAN promotes collaboration through training, capacity-building, and knowledge exchange.

In its commitment to advancing sustainable development, ELAN, through the Spanish Association RECIDA, has composed the initial notes of this publication: *The Green Librarian Handbook*. This publication serves as a guide of existing policies, tools, initiatives and practices designed to help libraries flourish as agents of climate action.

Among the most useful platforms for collaboration, we can find [E-PANEMA](#), the portal for EU-funded library projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Maintained by EBLIDA, E-PANEMA acts as both a discovery tool and a thriving community forum where ideas and experiences are shared and cultivated.

Here, librarians can find inspiration, explore successful projects, and gather the ideas to create their own initiatives, whether they are just starting or expanding a sustainable practice.

This handbook is structured to guide libraries step by step along their path to sustainability. It begins by clarifying key concepts and definitions, providing a common language to understand what sustainability means in the context of libraries.

It then explores general environmental policies at the European level, setting the legal and institutional foundations for action. From there, it branches out into sectoral policies highlighting how each area intersects with library work and community service.

The handbook also gathers a wide range of resources and tools: from practical guidelines and funding opportunities to collaborative platforms that help libraries implement change. Good practices from libraries across Europe illustrate what is already growing on the ground, offering replicable models and inspiration. Finally, a curated selection of recommended reading invites deeper exploration and continued learning.

As a closing gift, we offer a specially crafted playlist featuring songs linked to sustainability, many of them addressing climate change and protecting planet Earth. We hope it will inspire, uplift and accompany you on your journey towards greener practices.

Together, these sections form a practical, flexible framework that libraries can adapt to their local context, setting the tempo for transformation and helping their communities find their voice in the symphony of sustainability.

## 2 The Score: How to Play Sustainability

We often hear the word sustainability, but its vastness can make it feel abstract. In this chapter, we pause to look beneath the surface, to explore the foundations of sustainable thinking. This will help us to define and deepen our understanding of the core concepts that will guide us on our journey towards greener libraries.

Sustainability is our score: it sets the tone, anchors our interpretation and gives coherence to our actions. Without a clear and shared key, no performance can achieve harmony; likewise, without a solid grasp of sustainability, no green initiative can truly resonate. This concept must run deep, not as a fashionable trend, but as an enduring commitment that shapes how we think, plan, and act.

This section offers essential definitions to help us build libraries that are not only environmentally aware, but also truly resilient and green from the inside out.

### 'Sustainable' and 'sustainable development'

There are two main conditions to define something as *sustainable*:

- It minimises harm to the environment.
- It avoids long-term resource depletion.

Sustainability is a balance between human interaction and the use of the planet we live on, meeting today's needs without putting tomorrow at risk.

*Sustainable development* is about ensuring that future generations have the same opportunities as the previous ones. It is a call to rethink how we live and grow by balancing three key dimensions (United Nations, 2023).

- Economic sustainability.
- Social sustainability.
- Environmental sustainability.

The 17 SDGs look for societies where no one is left behind, where prosperity does not come at the cost of the planet and our choices support long-lasting wellbeing. It is not just a goal for global leaders, it is a blueprint for every citizen to shape a resilient future.

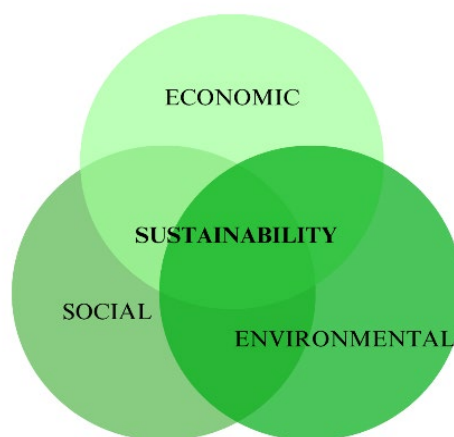


Image 1. Key dimensions of sustainability



## What Is a Green Library?

According to the *Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science* (Reitz, 2014), *green library* and *sustainable library* are considered synonyms. It defines a *sustainable library* as:

*“A library designed to minimize negative impact on the natural environment and maximize indoor environmental quality by means of careful site selection, use of natural construction materials and biodegradable products, conservation of resources (water, energy, paper), and responsible waste disposal (recycling, etc.). In new construction and library renovation, sustainability is increasingly achieved through LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, a rating system developed and administered by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). [...] Synonymous with green library”.*

As defined by the IFLA's Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (IFLA/ENSULIB), it is defined as a library that considers environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

A green library does not simply look green, it acts green across all facets of their operations.

### To summarize:

A green or sustainable library is one that adopts sustainability in its values and principles across three dimensions: environmental, social and economic. It actively works to minimize environmental harm, within its building and operations, and in its broader ecosystem and site. It implements strategies, technologies and policies that guide all its decisions, ensuring long-term resilience and responsible resource management.

It fosters green collections, promotes climate literacy, and takes leadership in building environmentally-conscious communities. Through inclusive services, ethical commitments, and active engagement, it becomes a catalyst for transformation, supporting sustainable development, raising and shaping public awareness and contributing to a just and enduring future.

Central to its success is the presence of a dedicated individual or team, the green librarian, who actively champions sustainability initiatives, coordinates efforts, and ensures that these goals are consistently pursued. This leadership role is crucial for driving change, maintaining momentum, and integrating sustainability into all aspects of the library's work.

## Who Is the Green Librarian?

The green librarian's role extends far beyond environmental care. They are committed to the wellbeing of both library staff and users, and to embedding sustainability in every facet of the library mission. Librarians are an emerging role model, who act as leaders on social responsibility.

### To summarize:

A green librarian is an information professional who integrates sustainability into their core values and actions. They support the wellbeing of the library's users, staff, and community. By promoting ecological awareness through collections, services and community engagement, they reduce environmental impact.

As agents of change, they cultivate a culture of responsibility, guide sustainable transformation and position the library as a key player.

## Tools and Best Practices

A **tool** is something practical and ready to use. It can help you design, adapt, or deliver a sustainable library service, programme or policy. Some tools are directly usable, while others serve as inspiration or templates to be customised and tailored.

These tools can take many forms, but their purpose remains the same: to be used, and to help transform sustainable ideas into real, meaningful actions.

Examples of green library tools include:

- Documents, handbooks, and other reading materials.
- Repositories and databases.
- Audiovisual materials.
- Apps and software.

A **best practice** is a tested action, initiative, project, programme, or strategy that has already been carried out successfully by a library or an institution, with the aim of promoting sustainability. They may use a variety of tools and resources, on different scales. The key is that they have been implemented and evaluated, demonstrating proven quality and impact. They can be replicated by other libraries, adapted to their specific context.

Examples of green library best practices:

- Specific sustainability-focused projects.
- Projects that raise awareness on a sustainable topic.
- Initiatives to improve environmental performance.
- Activities that encourage prototyping and innovation.

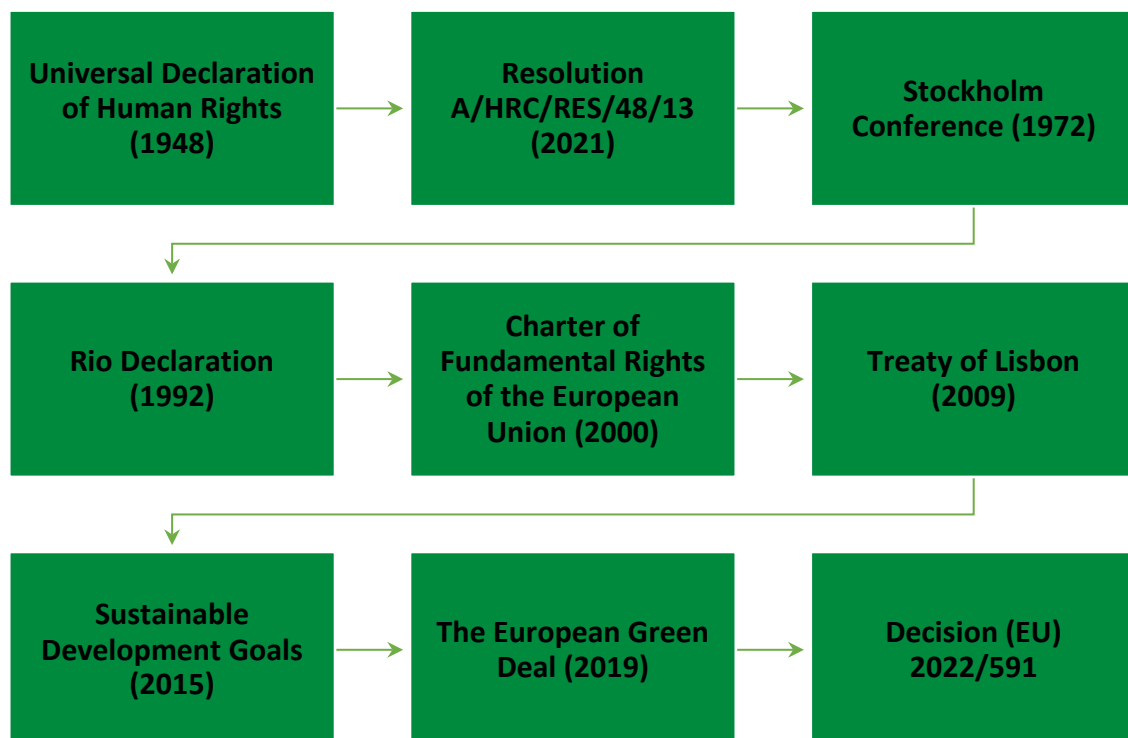
# *Allegro Maestoso*

## 3 Movement I: Policies that Shape the Sound

Even the most skilled musician needs a clear score and well-tuned instruments to bring a symphony to life. In the concert of sustainability, that score is composed of policies and legal frameworks that guide society's performance. These policies set the rhythm and tempo, ensuring that all sectors, including libraries, play in harmony with the broader environmental goal.

This first movement explores how legislation transforms sustainability from a concept into action. It begins with global frameworks that set the environmental key, and moves through sector-specific policies in areas such as energy, tourism, and education. These frameworks not only affirm essential rights, such as access to a healthy environment and environmental information, but also shape how libraries contribute to a more sustainable and informed society.

### 3.1. World Music: International General Environmental Policies



*Image 2. Timeline of the General Policies.*

## Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

- All people are born free and equal in dignity and rights, including the right to life (arts. 1 and 3).

Libraries reinforce these rights by providing inclusive, safe spaces and by fostering sustainable practices that protect users' health and dignity.

## Resolution A/HRC/RES/48/13: "Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions..." (2021)

- Explicitly recognises the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a distinct human right.
- Multilateral environmental agreements are required to protect the environment.
- States and other bodies must adopt policies and strengthen collaboration and cooperation, sharing good practices to scale up efforts.

For libraries, this means modeling sustainability through eco-friendly operations, curating materials that inform citizens about their environmental rights, and partnering with communities to advance a healthier planet.

## Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (1972)

- First global gathering focused on environmental concerns.
- Principles asserting that safeguarding the environment is a collective duty of all nations.
- It inspired international cooperation, allowing each country to balance development with preservation.

The conference highlighted the importance of disseminating educational and scientific data. Libraries can contribute by building collections on sustainability, hosting awareness programs, and providing reliable data.

## Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)

- 27 guiding principles to establish new partnerships and create new levels of cooperation among states.
- Alignment of economic growth with environmental protection.
- Emphasis of citizen participation and shared but differentiated responsibilities.
- Sustainable development with a human-centred focus.

Libraries play a dual role under Rio: they educate users about sustainability issues, and they manage their own resources (energy, water, materials) in an equitable, eco-efficient manner that serves every member of the community.

### Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2000)

- Elevates environmental protection to a fundamental right.
- Insists that European Union (EU) policies integrate a high level of environmental safeguarding in accordance with sustainable development.

This compels libraries across Europe to weave sustainability into every aspect of their operations, from building management to procurement practices. They must actively promote environmental literacy, ensuring that every library supports a greener, healthier future for all.

### Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2016, modified 2025)

- Embeds environmental protection into the fabric of EU policymaking: it must be integrated into all of the Union's policies and activities.
- Shared jurisdictions between the EU and the member states in areas such as the environment, alongside economic, social and territorial cohesion, social policy, energy, transport, agriculture and fishing.
- Four core objectives of the Union's environmental policy:
  - Preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment.
  - Protecting human health.
  - Prudent and rational utilisation of natural resources.
  - Promoting measures at international level to deal with regional or worldwide environmental problems, and in particular combating climate change.
- These objectives must follow the precautionary principle, preventive action, rectification at the source, and the polluter-pays principle.
- Member states are responsible for funding and implementing environmental policy, though the Union may provide financial support. Sustainability also appears in other titles, including XXI (Energy) and XXII (Tourism).

As centres of knowledge and community, libraries can become living examples of how to contribute to Europe's transition to sustainability by:

- Adopting environmentally friendly operations, prioritising energy efficiency in heating, lighting, and equipment.
- Favouring a circular economy by purchasing eco-labelled or reused items.
- Curating collections on the topic.
- Holding public events to explain EU policies and their impact.

### Sustainable Development Goals (2015)

- 17 global objectives adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015, designed to address the most pressing challenges facing humanity and the planet by 2030.

## Movement I: Policies that Shape the Sound

- They cover issues such as ending poverty, ensuring quality education, achieving gender equality, combating climate change, and preserving terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
- By uniting governments, civil society, and the private sector, they provide a roadmap for collective action and measurable progress.



Image 3. Sustainable Development Goals. [Source](#).

For libraries, the SDGs offer a framework to align collections, programmes, and community services with broader sustainable development priorities.

A library might curate resources on related topics, host workshops on digital literacy and climate action, or partner with local schools to promote inclusive learning opportunities.

By embedding SDG themes into daily operations and outreach, libraries become active agents in fostering informed, empowered communities that contribute to long-term wellbeing.

### The European Green Deal (2019)

- The vision of the EU as the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050.
- Decarbonisation, circular economy, biodiversity protection and elimination of pollution.
- Coordinated efforts across sectors such as transport, agriculture, industry, and finance.
- Aims to spark sustainable growth while ensuring a just transition that leaves no region or social group behind.

It is a practical opportunity to modernise buildings, adopt greener procurement practices, and raise community engagement surrounding environmental topics.

Libraries can benefit from different funding programmes under the Green Deal. They can also apply circular economy principles in their daily routines and actions. With activities such as exhibitions, reading clubs, workshops or public talks, libraries can raise awareness towards sustainability, inspiring citizens to play an active role and change their habits.

### **Decision (EU) 2022/591 of the European Parliament and of the Council on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2030 (2022)**

- Establishes the 8th Environmental Action Programme (EAP), laying out the EU's environmental priorities until 2030.
- Aims to accelerate the green transition and circular economy in a just and inclusive manner, building on the European Green Deal.
- Identifies six priority objectives:
  - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Tackling climate change.
  - Transitioning to a circular economy.
  - Achieving zero-pollution.
  - Protecting biodiversity.
  - Promoting various aspects of sustainability (energy, buildings, food, tourism, etc.).
- Defines the evaluation, monitoring and governance framework for implementation and accountability.

Libraries across EU member states are directly linked to the EAP's ambitions.

- They can align their local green actions with national strategies derived from EAP priorities.
- They may access EU funding for projects such as energy efficiency upgrades, repair and reuse programmes, or public awareness initiatives on pollution and climate change.
- They serve as key community partners in promoting environmental literacy and supporting the transition to a more sustainable and inclusive European future.



## 3.2. Solo Parts: Sectoral Environmental Policies

### a) Access to information and Open Data

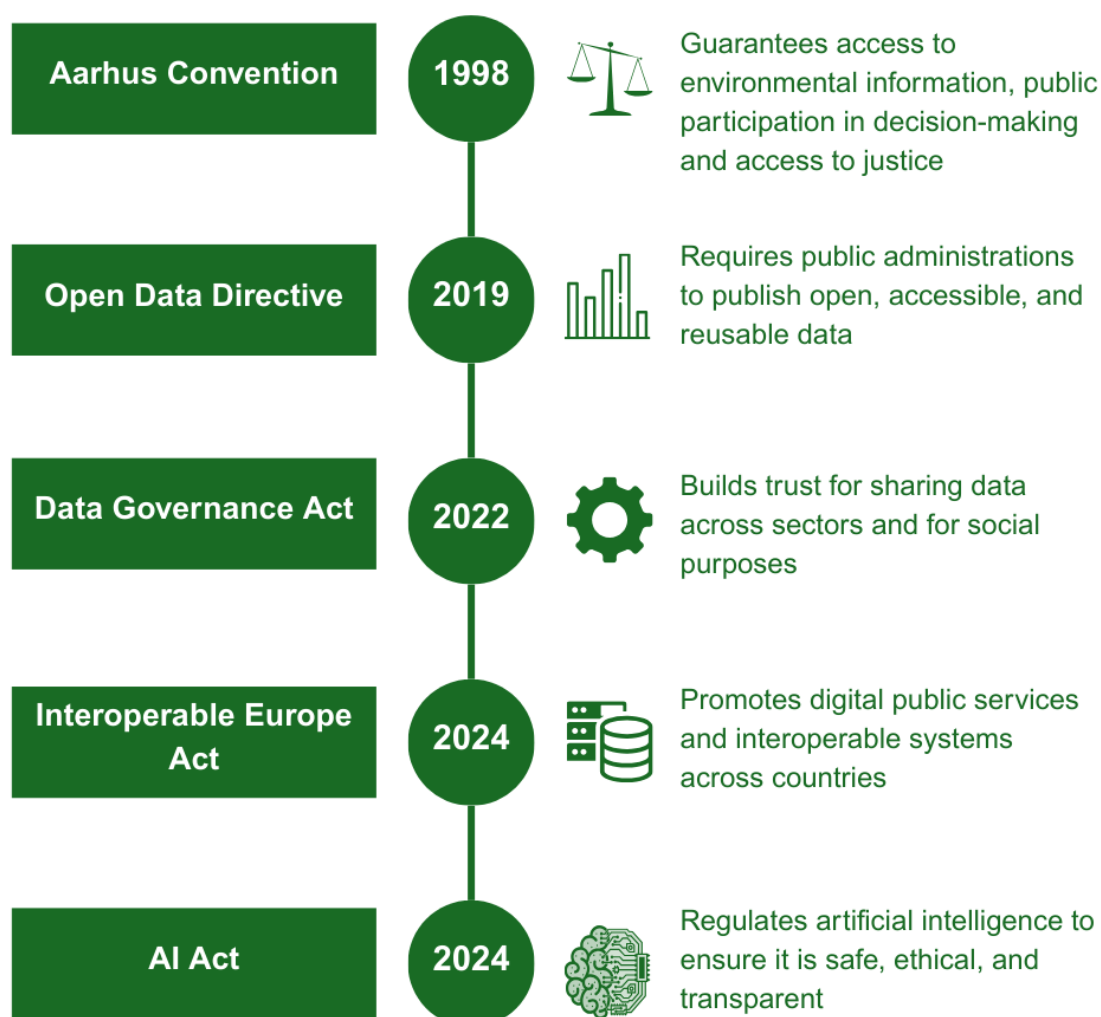


Image 4. Main instruments for Open Data and access to information

**The Aarhus Convention (1998)** is the key international instrument for ensuring transparency and public access to information. It defines what *environmental information* is, and obliges public authorities to make it accessible. It also establishes a framework for public participation in environmental decision-making and for access to justice in environmental matters.

Libraries play a crucial role in two ways: passively, by providing the public with free or low-cost access to environmental information; and actively, by collecting, organising and disseminating materials such as reports, data sets, etc. An informed society makes informed decisions, which ultimately benefits everyone.

The European legal framework on digital data, public sector information and artificial intelligence has evolved rapidly in recent years, shaping a new ecosystem for openness, interoperability and data governance.



The **Open Data Directive (Directive (EU) 2019/1024)** lays the foundation by requiring public sector bodies to make their data available in machine-readable formats, encouraging reuse through open licences. It promotes the idea that public data, as a public good, should be accessible and reusable, especially for research, innovation and transparency.

The role of libraries as data stewards and access points, especially in public libraries and academic institutions that manage or reuse public sector information, is reinforced. Libraries can host open data portals, curate datasets, and train citizens in data literacy.

In parallel, the **Data Governance Act (Regulation (EU) 2022/868)** strengthens trust in the sharing of data, facilitating access to protected or sensitive categories of information through secure and ethical intermediaries. It creates a structure that enables data altruism, allowing individuals and organizations to share data voluntarily for the common good, including for environmental, health or scientific purposes.

This act encourages libraries to participate in trusted data ecosystems, facilitating access to research or environmental data while respecting privacy and ethical principles.

The **Interoperable Europe Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/903)** complements this by establishing mechanisms for seamless digital cooperation between public administrations across the Union. It promotes the use of shared solutions, common standards and open source tools, aiming to reduce duplication and increase transparency in public digital services.

It establishes a framework for libraries, particularly those within public administrations or national networks, to integrate digital services into wider public systems, using shared tools for cataloguing, metadata, and digital access.

Finally, the newly adopted **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689)** introduces harmonised rules for the safe and ethical development and use of artificial intelligence. It sets risk-based obligations, banning certain uses and requiring transparency, human oversight and safety checks in high-risk systems, particularly those used in education, public services or critical infrastructures.

It is important for libraries to know the risks of AI tools they may adopt, from recommendation systems to chatbots, ensuring ethical use and transparency while potentially guiding public education around responsible AI.

## b) Climate Change and Energy Transition

### Brief Overview

#### EU Climate Action Progress Report (COM/2023/653 final) and State of the Energy Union Report (COM/2023/650 final)

- Emissions are falling, but sectors like transport and buildings are lagging.
- Green investment and use of ETS revenues are crucial.
- Progress in renewables and efficiency.
- Energy affordability and security still a concern.
- Urgent call for faster energy transition.



#### Energy Efficiency Directive (Directive (EU) 2023/1791)

- Sets stricter energy-saving targets
- Renovation requirement on public buildings.
- Stronger energy management strategies.

#### For Libraries

- Improve buildings' energy performance.
- Use low-emission technologies.
- Promote climate and energy literacy.
- Lead by example in reducing carbon footprint.
- Inspire communities to adopt energy-sustainable behaviours.



### In-Depth Review

In 2023, the EU published two key documents: the [EU Climate Action Progress Report \(COM/2023/653 final\)](#) and the [State of the Energy Union Report \(COM/2023/650 final\)](#). They provide a comprehensive overview of the EU's progress toward its energy and climate targets for 2030 and 2050.

A reduction on greenhouse gas emissions is confirmed, but there are still challenges in sectors such as transport, buildings, and agriculture. It comments on the need for continued green investments and evaluates the use of revenues from the Emissions Trading System (ETS) to support climate goals.

In terms of energy, some improvements are highlighted in energy efficiency, renewable energy deployment and emissions reduction. Nevertheless, it also identifies ongoing issues related to energy security and affordability. The report calls for a faster energy transition, especially in key sectors such as transport and industry.

These reports could serve as a guide for libraries that wish to adopt energy-efficient practices, achieve climate neutrality and reduce their emissions in their buildings, actions and services.

Complementing these reports, the [Energy Efficiency Directive \(Directive \(EU\) 2023/1791\)](#) strengthens the EU's legal framework on energy saving. It sets more ambitious targets for energy efficiency and places specific obligations on public buildings, including renovation requirements and energy management strategies.

Libraries, as public institutions, are directly impacted by energy efficiency obligations and should work towards improving their buildings' energy performance. These instruments offer opportunities for funding to implement sustainable renovations, install efficient lighting or heating systems, and adopt low-emission technologies.

Libraries can also act as platforms to raise awareness, helping communities understand climate and energy data, and promoting behavioural change through workshops, exhibitions, or access to reliable environmental information.

Ultimately, by integrating sustainability into their operations and services, libraries not only reduce their own environmental footprint, but also inspire action across the communities they serve.

## c) Water

### Brief Overview

#### Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

- Protects rivers, lakes, coasts, and groundwater.
- Aims for good ecological and chemical status.
- Promotes integrated planning and public participation.



#### Drinking Water Directive (EU 2020/2184)

- Ensures water safety and quality for human consumption.
- Improves transparency and public access to water data.

#### Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (EU 2024/3019)

- Focuses on pollution control and sanitation in urban areas.
- Supports both environmental protection and public health.

#### For Libraries

- Share accessible water-related information and data.
- Host events, workshops, or displays on water conservation.
- Use water-efficient systems and promote tap water.
- Reuse greywater where possible.
- Model sustainable practices to inspire the community.



### In-Depth Review

The European Union has developed a solid legal framework to protect water resources and ensure safe access for all.

The **Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)** provides the basis for sustainable water management across the EU. It seeks to protect all water bodies (rivers, lakes, coastal waters, and groundwater) by achieving good ecological and chemical status through integrated planning and active public participation. The directive outlines the responsibilities of each governance level and specifies the documentation, monitoring, and actions required to safeguard

both ecosystems and citizens, particularly in the face of emergencies and extreme weather events.

Complementing this, the [Directive \(EU 2020/2184\)](#) guarantees the safety and quality of water intended for human consumption. It also strengthens transparency by requiring public authorities to make water quality information accessible and understandable to all citizens. Though these two are the cornerstones of EU water policy, complementary instruments such as the [Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive \(EU 2024/3019\)](#) are also crucial to ensure environmental protection and human health, particularly in urban areas.

Libraries can serve as access points for water-related data and support public understanding of water policy, by organising events, workshops, pamphlets or bibliographic displays.

Moreover, by adopting responsible water-use practices in their own operations, they actively contribute to this culture of water conservation. Examples include using water-efficient cooling systems, reusing greywater (e.g., redirecting sink water to flush toilets), placing flow limiters on faucets, or offering public drinking fountains to promote tap water use.

## d) Biodiversity and Protected Areas

### Brief Overview

#### EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- Halts biodiversity loss and restores ecosystems.
- Expands protected land and marine areas.
- Promotes urban greening and tree planting.
- Reduces pesticide use and enforces restoration laws.



#### Habitats & Birds Directives



Legal basis for the Natura 2000 network.



Protects key species and habitats across the EU.



Requires monitoring, reporting, and public participation.

#### For Libraries

- Promote biodiversity through events, exhibitions, and educational programmes.
- Organise workshops on pollinators, native species, or urban ecology.
- Green library grounds with native plants and avoid pesticides.
- Support public engagement in biodiversity monitoring and protection.



#### Extra Insights

- The **Invasive Alien Species Regulation (1143/2014)** identifies harmful non-native species and obligates control and eradication
- Natura 2000 is Europe's largest coordinated network of protected areas. Complementary designations include **Ramsar Wetlands**, **UNESCO Biosphere Reserves**, and **National Parks**.

**Creating libraries or documentation centres within protected areas can boost education, research, and community engagement!**

## In-Depth Review

The [EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, Bringing nature back into our lives \(COM/2020/380 final\)](#), is a pillar of the European Green Deal. It sets an ambitious vision to halt biodiversity loss and strengthen nature's resilience against climate change and environmental degradation.

Its objectives include protecting the EU's land and marine areas, restoring degraded ecosystems, planting trees and expanding urban spaces, as well as reducing the use of pesticides and reinforcing the nature restoration laws.

This strategy is supported by key EU directives and regulations:

- The Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) form the legal backbone of Natura 2000, a network of protected sites aiming to conserve Europe's most valuable species and habitats. These directives require regular monitoring, reporting, and public participation.
- The [EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species \(1143/2014\)](#) establishes a list of species of concern, obligating member states to prevent, eradicate, or manage invasive non-native species that threaten native biodiversity.

Libraries have an active role to play in supporting biodiversity objectives:

- Organising events, exhibitions, and reading programmes focused on native species, habitat protection, and ecological restoration.
- Offering up-to-date scientific, policy, and citizen-science resources on biodiversity, Natura 2000, and invasive species.
- Hosting workshops on pollinator-friendly gardening, citizen biodiversity monitoring, urban wildlife or nature walks.
- Enhancing their own green spaces with native plants, reducing pesticide use, and supporting urban biodiversity.

By promoting biodiversity literacy and acting as a bridge between policy and people, libraries help to build up an informed and engaged public that can actively contribute to the EU's biodiversity protection goals.




The Natura 2000 network covers protected sites that are important for the conservation of endangered or vulnerable species and habitats. However, other instruments also designate protected areas, such as the [Ramsar Convention for Wetlands](#) (1971), the [biosphere reserves \(UNESCO\)](#), national parks and nature reserves, or marine protected areas.

Moreover, it would be highly valuable for each protected natural area to have a dedicated library or documentation centre that complements existing visitor centres. Such a facility could serve as both an attraction for visitors and curious locals, and as a hub for scientific research and knowledge dissemination within the protected space.



## e) Food and Farming

### Brief Overview

Common Agricultural Policy	Farm to Fork Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supports farmers and rural areas.</li><li>• Integrates environmental and climate goals.</li><li>• Promotes biodiversity, healthy soils, cleaner water, and lower emissions.</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Core pillar of the EU Green Deal.</li><li>• Aims for a sustainable, fair, and healthy food system.</li><li>• Promotes organic farming and shorter, local food chains.</li><li>• Reduces pesticide and fertiliser use.</li></ul> 
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partner with local producers for sustainable events.</li><li>• Promote farmers' markets, organic products, and local food networks.</li><li>• Encourage eco-friendly choices in library cafés (local, seasonal, organic).</li><li>• Support community gardening with spaces, tools, or learning materials.</li></ul>	

### For Libraries

### In-Depth Review

The **Common Agricultural Policy** (CAP) is a cornerstone of EU agricultural strategy, aiming to support farmers, promote sustainable agriculture, and ensure food security across Europe. It integrates environmental and climate objectives to encourage farming practices that protect biodiversity, improve soil health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance water quality.

Complementing the CAP, the **Farm to Fork Strategy** is a connecting element of the European Green Deal, focusing on creating a sustainable food system. It aims to make food production and consumption healthier and more environmentally friendly by promoting organic farming, reducing the use of pesticides and fertilisers, and supporting shorter supply chains.

Libraries play a vital role in raising awareness about these policies and their impact on sustainable agriculture and food systems through activities such as:

- Collaborating with local producers and organisations to provide food for library events.
- Promoting farmers' markets, organic products, and community-supported agriculture programmes.
- Encourage sustainable food choices in library cafés, sourcing local, organic, and seasonal products.
- Provide spaces or resources for citizens to create and maintain their own gardens.



## f) Sustainable Cities, Transport and Tourism

### Brief Overview

#### Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy (2020) and EU Urban Mobility Framework (2021)

- Promote low-emission mobility.
- Innovative urban transport solutions to make cities greener and more liveable.



#### Union Guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Network



- Connection of urban and rural areas.
- Sustainable transport infrastructures across Europe.

#### European Agenda for Tourism 2030

##### Opinion of the ECR (2020/ C 37/02) “Towards a More Sustainable Tourism for EU Cities and Regions”

- Resilient tourism focused on community involvement.
- Integration of environmental protection into recovery strategies.



#### For Libraries

- Information on public transit routes, maps, transport-sharing schemes, etc.
- Create information kiosks and local history collections.
- Connect readers with walking or cycling tours.
- Loan healthy means of transport, such as bicycles or scooters.
- Offer repair tools and parking.



### In-Depth Review

A truly smart city integrates many dimensions covered in other sections (such as energy efficiency, wastewater management or nature-based solutions) to create healthier urban environments. Mobility and tourism are two of the main

aspects, ensuring accessibility and reducing emissions, fostering economic vitality without compromising the environment.

With regards to mobility, the [Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy](#) (2020) lays out the plan for transforming European transport by promoting low-emission, safe, and accessible mobility systems that benefit citizens and the climate. Complementing this, the [EU Urban Mobility Framework](#) (2021) focuses on innovative, inclusive urban transport solutions to make cities greener and more liveable.

The recently adopted [Union Guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Network](#) (2024) provide a framework for developing integrated, efficient, and sustainable transport infrastructure across Europe, connecting urban and rural areas while supporting decarbonisation goals.

In the tourism sector, the [European Agenda for Tourism 2030](#) promotes sustainable, digital, and resilient tourism, emphasising environmental protection, cultural heritage preservation, and local community involvement.

The [Opinion of the European Committee of the Regions \(2020/C 37/02\), “Towards More Sustainable Tourism for EU Cities and Regions”](#), emphasises that tourism is a strategic driver of social and economic cohesion, but also a source of environmental pressure. It calls for a “smart and sustainable” approach to tourism, urging local and regional authorities to integrate environmental protection, cultural heritage preservation, and community engagement into recovery strategies.

For libraries, these documents have several implications and opportunities:

- Provide information on low-emission transport options such as public transit routes, bike-sharing schemes or electric vehicle charging maps.
- Partner with local entities to facilitate public consultations, helping citizens configure urban mobility networks.
- Create information kiosks or curate local history collections, to connect readers with sustainable walking or cycling tours.
- Offer bike repair tools and secure parking for bicycles and scooters.
- Loan skates, bikes, or other healthy means of transport with their equipment.
- Implement mobile library initiatives to increase accessibility and reduce the need for motorised travel.

## g) Pollution and Waste: Circular Economy

### Brief Overview

#### Zero Pollution Action Plan (2021)

- Vision: pollution-free environment by 2050.
- 2030 targets: better air & water, less noise, fewer hazardous chemicals.
- Integrated into the European Green Deal.



#### Circular Economy Action Plan (2020)

- Promotes reuse, repair, recycling, and sustainable design
- Focus on electronics, textiles, packaging, and product life cycles

#### Single-Use Plastics Directive (2019/904)

- Bans or restricts major plastic pollutants.
- Encourages better labelling and reduced marine litter.

#### Batteries Regulation (2023/1542)

- Ensures sustainable, circular management of all battery types.
- Sets targets for collection, reuse, and recyclability.



#### For Libraries



- Eliminate single-use plastics in daily operations.
- Host e-waste collection points.
- Organise repair cafés and reuse workshops.
- Promote circular practices through displays and talks.
- Extend book life: swaps, repairs, creative reuse.
- Collaborate with publishers to rescue unsold stock.



### In-Depth Review

The **EU Zero Pollution Action Plan** (2021) sets a vision for 2050: an environment free of pollution that is harmful to health and ecosystems.

- Proposes ambitious targets for 2030 such as improving air and water quality, reducing noise, and minimising exposure to hazardous chemicals.
- Builds on the European Green Deal, integrating zero-pollution as a main priority that intersects with other policies.

As in other sustainability areas, libraries can be key allies in raising awareness about environmental health, air quality, and chemical exposure. They can host educational campaigns with experts on sustainable habits and pollution prevention.

At the same time, libraries should reduce their own pollution footprint by improving indoor air quality, minimising waste, and promoting toxin-free practices.

In this broader context of pollution reduction, circular economy policies come into play. The EU is advancing legislative measures that seek to reduce waste, extend product life cycles, and promote sustainable material use:

- The [Directive \(EU\) 2019/904](#) on single-use plastics bans or restricts the most polluting plastic items, encourages better product labelling, and aims to reduce plastic litter in marine environments.
- The [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1542](#) on batteries and waste batteries ensures sustainability and circularity across all battery types, including collection targets, reuse, recyclability, and responsible supply chains.

The [Circular Economy Action Plan](#) (2020) outlines a comprehensive strategy for sustainable production and consumption, with specific attention to sectors such as electronics, textiles, and packaging.

Libraries can embrace and promote these principles through practical, visible actions:

- Eliminating single-use plastics in events, cafés, and daily operations.
- Hosting collection points for used batteries and small electronics, contributing to local recycling efforts.
- Organising repair cafés or tool-sharing initiatives, reinforcing a culture of reuse.
- Providing reliable information on circular practices through curated collections, exhibitions, and public talks.

Furthermore, they can support a circular economy by extending the life-span of physical books:

- Book swaps and book-crossing points.
- Repairing and restoring damaged books instead of discarding them.
- Reusing them for arts and crafts.
- Partnering with publishers to rescue unsold stock.

By embedding circular economy values into their operations and outreach, libraries go beyond information access. They become drivers of change in their communities, actively supporting Europe's transition toward a zero-pollution, circular society.

## h) Education and Culture

### Brief Overview

#### New European Agenda for Culture (COM/2018/267 final)

- Culture supports social cohesion and the green transition.
- Promotes eco-conscious creative industries and heritage preservation.

#### Report on the Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development (COM 2022/709 final)

- Links cultural policy to the UN SDGs.
- Encourages climate-aware cultural practices.



#### Council Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development

- Educators receive guidance on how to integrate sustainability across all subjects.
- Emphasis on applied theory in real-life contexts.

#### GreenComp Framework

- Defines 8 core competencies for sustainability.
- Focuses on civic engagement, empathy, systems thinking, and responsibility.

#### Support Programmes

- Creative European Programme (2021-2027).
- European Education Area and Erasmus+.

#### For Libraries



- Curate "green reads" on ecology, heritage, and sustainability
- Co-create eco-exhibitions and digital storytelling projects with schools
- Join Erasmus+ or Creative Europe to share best practices and expand reach



### In-Depth Review

The European Union has made culture and education central to its sustainability goals, where several strategies work together.

The [New European Agenda for Culture \(COM/2018/267 final\)](#) highlights how arts and heritage can drive social cohesion and support the green transition. The Commission's [Report on the Cultural Dimension of Sustainable Development \(COM 2022/709 final\)](#) links cultural policies to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, calling for creative industries to reduce their carbon footprints and to protect biodiversity through heritage projects.

Schools and universities are now urged to incorporate sustainability into every subject and course. Through the [Council Recommendation on learning for](#)

**the green transition and sustainable development**, educators receive guidance on integrating climate change, circular economy, and biodiversity topics into curricula. This approach recommends that students not only understand environmental concepts theoretically, but also apply them in real-life contexts.


A complementary tool, the **GreenComp framework**, defines eight core competencies required for a sustainable society. Rather than focusing solely on knowledge, it highlights skills such as systems thinking and civic engagement, which empower learners to participate in community decision-making. Other essential areas include self-awareness, empathy, collaboration, critical thinking, and personal responsibility, all designed to foster a generation capable of addressing complex sustainability challenges.

At the intersection of culture and ecology, the **Creative Europe Programme (2021-2027)** provides funding for artistic and cultural collaborations that tackle environmental themes across borders. By supporting projects such as eco-documentaries, community-driven art installations, and intercultural festivals focused on nature conservation, this project encourages cultural organisations and libraries to experiment with innovative formats.

Meanwhile, **European Education Area** initiatives promote digital learning tools, greener student mobility, and teacher training in environmental literacy. Online resources for climate and circular economy topics are supported, while Erasmus+ mobility schemes include “green travel” options that prioritise low-carbon transport. Teacher training modules in environmental literacy ensure educators can lead hands-on projects such as local biodiversity surveys and energy audits.

Libraries sit at the intersection of culture, learning, and community. They can bring the EU’s vision to life:

- By curating “green reads” on local ecology, heritage, and sustainable practices, libraries offer easy access to eco-focused resources.
- By working with schools and cultural groups, libraries can co-create small exhibitions or digital storytelling platforms that celebrate local traditions and highlight eco-innovations.
- Libraries can join Creative Europe or Erasmus+ projects to share best practices, expand digital archives, and support greener study exchanges.



*Andante*

## **Movement II: Tools and Resources**

Sustainability in libraries is no longer a distant aspiration. It is becoming an essential part of their daily mission. As hubs of knowledge, community, and innovation, libraries are uniquely positioned to lead the cultural shift toward greener and more just societies, but in order to turn vision into action they need the right tools, support mechanisms, and examples to follow. This chapter brings together a practical collection of instruments, funding opportunities, and recognition programs that help libraries put sustainability into motion.

The section begins with international awards that recognise and celebrate excellence in green library initiatives, from eco-friendly infrastructure and innovative educational campaigns to community resilience projects and digital inclusion strategies. These recognitions not only offer visibility and prestige but also provide replicable models of success.

It continues with a deep dive into European and global funding schemes that support environmental transformation within cultural institutions. Whether libraries are looking to retrofit their buildings, develop sustainability education programs, or engage in transnational cooperation projects, they will find funding pathways adapted to various scales and levels of ambition.

Also featured are tested work methodologies, such as the Hexagonal Libraries model, which guide institutions through processes of self-evaluation, participatory planning, and continuous innovation in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Rather than offering a one-size-fits-all solution, this compilation aims to serve as an adaptable toolkit. Each library, regardless of size, location, or specialisation, can find something useful here to inspire its next steps. By embracing these tools, not just as external resources but as catalysts for internal change, libraries can accelerate their role as agents of ecological transition, social inclusion, and collective wellbeing. In this shared journey, every action counts, and every library has a note to play in the symphony of sustainability.



## 4.1. Exposition: Awards and Recognitions

Several prizes recognise libraries for their commitment to sustainability. These awards highlight innovation, inspire others, and give visibility to green leadership in the sector.

### 1. IFLA Green Library Award

(2016- )

Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section.  
(ENSULIB). International Federation of Library  
Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

It is sponsored by Library Juice Academy and De Gruyter  
Publishing.



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#### Summary

The IFLA Green Library Award recognises libraries and projects that exemplify outstanding commitment to environmental sustainability. Organised annually by the IFLA Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section, it has two categories: Best Green Library (Large-Scale) and Best Green Library Project (Specific Initiative). Also a special recognition may be given to a project that was carried out with minimal resources but has a big impact. The award highlights innovative approaches—from sustainable building design to impactful environmental education—positioning libraries as key players in advancing the 2030 Agenda. Winners are announced during the IFLA World Library and Information Congress, receiving global visibility and fostering a culture of sustainability within the library profession.

#### Target Population

Public, academic, specialised libraries and library networks  
implementing sustainable projects or environmentally responsible  
infrastructure at local, regional, or international levels.

#### Related SDGs



#### What the award entails

The IFLA Green Library Award is granted annually in two categories:

- Best Green Library (Large-Scale): recognising a library as a whole, including its building, operations, and services, for achieving outstanding environmental sustainability, e.g. energy efficiency, green architecture, or sustainable management practices.



- Best Green Library Project (Specific Initiative): recognising a targeted project or programme, such as an educational campaign, a recycling initiative, or a biodiversity scheme, that demonstrates creativity and impact in promoting sustainability.

Winners receive:

- An official certificate from IFLA.
- Formal recognition and presentation during the IFLA World Library and Information Congress.
- International visibility through IFLA's website, newsletters, and social media.
- The opportunity to inspire and lead by example within the global library community.
- The first-place winners in each category, as well as the Special Recognition Award, receive a monetary grant.
- Honourable mentions may also be awarded to other notable entries.

**Keywords** Green library; Sustainability; IFLA; SDGs; Agenda 2030; Environmental education; Resource management; Sustainable infrastructure.

## 2. IFLA/Baker & Taylor Public Library of the Year Award

(2014- )

IFLA, Public Libraries Section; Baker & Taylor.

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### Summary

The IFLA Public Library of the Year Award celebrates newly opened or significantly expanded public libraries worldwide. It honours institutions that combine architectural excellence, community engagement, sustainability, flexible spaces, and innovative technology. The annual award highlights libraries that serve as cultural hubs, embody local identity, and foster learning across generations. Winners receive global attention at the World Library and Information Congress. The award fosters aspirational standards, demonstrating how public libraries can be powerful catalysts for social connection, lifelong learning, and sustainable development.

**Target Population** Public libraries that are newly built, substantially expanded, or newly converted within a year, serving local communities and demonstrating excellence in design, services, and sustainability.

### Related SDGs



### What the award entails

- Being officially named Public Library of the Year by IFLA and Baker & Taylor.
- Receiving a formal certificate and trophy presented during the IFLA World Library and Information Congress.
- Gaining global recognition and visibility through IFLA's communication channels and international media.
- Prize money to the winning library. Shortlisted libraries will receive a certificate.
- Honourable mentions may also be given to notable finalists.

**Keywords** Public library; Architecture; Community hub; Sustainability; Flexible spaces; Digital innovation; SDGs; IFLA.

### 3. NEB Prizes (New European Bauhaus Prizes) – European Commission

(2021- )



European Commission (Directorates-General for Education, Culture, and Innovation)

#### Contact

#### Summary

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is a creative and interdisciplinary initiative launched by the European Commission to shape future living spaces that are sustainable, inclusive, and aesthetically inspiring. It bridges the European Green Deal with daily life by fostering projects that reconnect people with nature, strengthen community belonging, prioritise vulnerable places, and support circular ecosystems. Libraries can play a key role as public, cultural, and educational hubs aligned with NEB principles, creating spaces that merge environmental responsibility, architectural innovation, and social inclusion, while promoting learning and engagement within their communities.

**Target Population** Completed sustainable initiatives ("Champions") across Europe  
Conceptual/early-stage ideas by young innovators (<30 years) ("Rising Stars")  
Municipalities: NEB Boost invites small towns (<20,000 inhabitants) with community-led built environment projects

### Related SDGs



### What the award entails

Awarded annually in four thematic categories, 1) reconnecting with nature, 2) regaining a sense of belonging, 3) prioritising people and places in need, and 4) fostering a circular industrial ecosystem, the competition features two levels. These are *Champions* (completed projects, €30,000 winner/€20,000 runner-up) and *Rising Stars* (innovative concepts by under-30s, €15,000/€10,000). Winning initiatives receive financial support and communication resources to broaden their impact.

**Keywords** New European Bauhaus; Libraries; Sustainability; Inclusion; Architectural innovation; Cultural belonging; Circular economy; Community engagement; EU awards.

## 4. European Sustainable Energy Awards (EUSEW Awards)

(2021- )

European Commission – Directorate-General for Energy,  
organized within the European Sustainable Energy Week  
(EUSEW) framework

[awards@eusew.eu](mailto:awards@eusew.eu)



### Summary

The European Sustainable Energy Awards (EUSEW Awards) celebrate outstanding individuals, initiatives, and projects advancing Europe's transition to clean, sustainable energy. The awards spotlight innovation, community-driven action, and gender equality in the energy field, showcasing scalable, inspiring solutions aligned with the European Green Deal. Libraries, as public, inclusive and educational spaces, can play a key role by reducing their own energy footprint, hosting community awareness campaigns, supporting local energy initiatives, and serving as demonstration sites for renewable technologies. Their capacity to engage citizens and foster knowledge-sharing makes them strong contenders for the Local Energy Action or Innovation categories.

### Target Population

Organisations and individuals across the EU that are active in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Community groups or municipalities implementing local clean energy actions.

Female leaders making significant contributions in the energy sector.

### Related SDGs



### What the award entails

The EUSEW Awards are presented annually during the EU Sustainable Energy Week's Policy Conference in Brussels. They consist of three categories:

- Innovation Award: recognises groundbreaking EU-funded projects in renewables or energy efficiency.
- Local Energy Action Award: celebrates community-led clean energy initiatives at regional or municipal levels.
- Woman in Energy Award: honours women who are driving impactful energy transformation and gender equity in the sector.

Finalists are selected by a high-level jury; winners are chosen via a public online vote. Winners receive:

- A high-quality video produced by EUSEW media.
- A professional press package for European and local media outreach.
- Formal recognition during the Brussels award ceremony.
- Exposure through EUSEW communication channels, fostering networking and sector visibility.

### Keywords

Clean energy; Innovation; Renewable energy; Energy efficiency; Community action; Women in energy; EU Green Deal; Public voting; Sustainable transition.

## 5. UN SDG Action Awards ("Heroes of Tomorrow")

(2018- )

UN SDG Action Campaign, hosted by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), under the Office of the UN Secretary-General.



### Summary

The UN SDG Action Awards honour innovative and impactful initiatives advancing the Sustainable Development Goals through three categories: Creativity, for campaigns using powerful storytelling and innovative communication to inspire change; Resilience, for actions strengthening communities' ability to cope with crises and build sustainable futures; and Changemaker, for individuals driving transformative local or global impact. Libraries can participate by showcasing

creative educational campaigns, fostering community resilience through inclusive programs, or demonstrating leadership in advancing sustainability. Their role as accessible, trusted spaces makes them ideal candidates for initiatives that mobilise citizens, strengthen social fabric, and promote awareness of the SDGs.

**Target Population**

NGOs, social enterprises, public institutions, individuals, and community groups whose campaigns have demonstrated SDG impact within the past three years. Library-based initiatives are welcomed, particularly those using creative media, resilience strategies, or local storytelling to foster sustainable impact.

**Related SDGs**



**What the award entails**

The UN SDG Action Awards recognise outstanding initiatives in three categories: Creativity, Resilience, and Changemaker. Finalists are selected through a rigorous jury process and are invited to attend the award ceremony, with travel and accommodation fully covered for them and a guest. Winners in each category receive a prestigious UN SDG Action Award trophy, extensive media exposure through UN communication channels, and the opportunity to showcase their work at the high-level ceremony held in Rome. While the award does not include a monetary prize, it offers global recognition, professional networking, and visibility within the United Nations system and beyond.

**Keywords** SDGs; Resilience; Creativity; Storytelling; Community libraries; Advocacy; Changemaker; UNDP.

## 6. International Green Gown Awards

(2014- )



The Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges (EAUC), supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF), the International Association of Universities (IAU), and Allianz Global Investors.

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**Summary**

The International Green Gown Awards, established in 2014, celebrate exceptional sustainability achievements by higher education institutions worldwide. Building on

the original UK & Ireland and Australasian editions, the international version recognizes projects across diverse categories such as Climate Action, Community Engagement, or Sustainability Institution of the Year. Small and large institutions may be awarded separately. With backing from UNEP and UN bodies, winners demonstrate how universities and colleges can drive systemic change toward the UN SDGs through innovation, leadership, and community impact. Libraries, as part of academic institutions, can contribute by embedding sustainable campus operations, supporting student-led climate initiatives, or leading community outreach on environmental literacy.

**Target Population**

Universities, colleges, and tertiary educational institutions globally engaging in impactful sustainability initiatives across areas such as climate action, biodiversity, student engagement, and organizational sustainability

**Related SDGs**



**What the award entails**

Prizes include:

- Highly regarded “Sustainability Institution of the Year” award.
- Global recognition and visibility through UN and Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges media, including press releases, case studies, and social media.
- Benchmarking tool for internal improvement.
- Inspiration and best-practice sharing across the higher education and wider sustainability community.

**Keywords**

Higher education; Green Gown; Climate action; Nature positive; Student engagement; Sustainability institution; Campus operations; SDGs.

## 4.2. Development: Funding Programmes

Funding programmes offer support for sustainable library projects. This section lists key opportunities to fund green initiatives, from local actions to international partnerships.

### 1. Horizon Europe – Research & Innovation Framework Programme

(2021-2027 )

European Commission –DG RTD



#### Summary

Horizon Europe is the EU's flagship research and innovation funding programme (2021-2027), with a total budget of approximately €95.5 billion aimed at addressing global challenges such as climate change, digital transition, health, and biodiversity. It promotes multidimensional collaboration through three key project types: Research & Innovation Action (RIA), Innovation Action (IA), and Coordination & Support Action (CSA). It supports projects led by diverse consortia across Europe, including public institutions such as libraries. Libraries can access this funding in order to drive sustainable innovation, cultural heritage preservation, climate education, digital literacy, and citizen engagement, championing SDG-aligned practices.

#### Target Population

Legal entities (public/private research organisations, SMEs, NGOs, universities, libraries) from EU Member and Associated Countries. For RIAs & IAs: at least 3 independent participants from different countries are required.

#### Related SDGs



#### Funding Rates & Project Types

Horizon Europe supports three main types of actions, each with specified funding rates:

- RIA finance research and early-stage development, covering 100% of eligible costs (including both direct and indirect expenses) for all participants. *Example for a library:* A consortium of universities and public libraries conducts research on how library spaces contribute to mental health and social cohesion, using libraries as living laboratories to collect and analyse data.
- IA fund market-facing activities such as prototyping, piloting, and scaling. The EU covers 70% of eligible costs for for-profit entities and 100% for non-profit organizations (such as public libraries). *Example for a library:* A consortium



develops and pilots an innovative energy-efficient building management system in libraries across Europe, turning them into smart, low-carbon public spaces ready for replication elsewhere.

- CSA focuses on networking, policy dialogue, training, and dissemination, and is funded at 100% of eligible costs. *Example for a library:* A group of libraries and cultural organisations creates a European network to share best practices on sustainability education, developing joint training programmes and advocacy campaigns.

Funding is typically delivered in stages: an initial advance (around 75%), followed by interim and final payments linked to project progress and milestone reporting.

Overall, Horizon Europe projects generally range between €2 million to €15 million per consortium, depending on scope and scale.

**Keywords** Horizon Europe; Research; Innovation; EU research funding; Academic libraries; Sustainability; Innovation consortia; Civil society; SDGs.

## 2. LIFE Programme (EU's funding instrument for environment and climate action)

(1992- )

European Commission – managed by CINEA (European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency) under DG Environment and DG Climate Action



### Summary

The LIFE Programme has been the EU's primary instrument for funding environment and climate action since 1992. In the 2021–2027 period, it has a budget of €5.43 billion, supporting over 6,000 projects and implementing EU environmental policy. Structured into four sub-programmes—Nature & Biodiversity, Circular Economy & Quality of Life, Climate Mitigation & Adaptation, and Clean Energy Transition—it finances demonstration, pilot, preparatory, strategic, and support projects. Libraries can access LIFE to lead or join initiatives on green infrastructure, circular resource use, biodiversity education, clean energy retrofits, and community climate resilience, aligning with EU priorities and local sustainable development goals.

**Target Population** Public bodies, NGOs, universities, research institutions, and private entities across EU Member and Associated Countries.

Encourages partnerships at local, regional, national, and transnational levels for Environment or Climate action projects.



### Related SDGs



### Funding Rates & Project Types

LIFE funds a variety of project types with different co-financing rates:

- Standard Action Projects: typical projects covering demonstration, pilot, or best practices. EU co-financing is 55–60%, rising to 67% for priority habitats and 75% for priority species/habitat projects. Typical grant size: €500,000–€1.5 million, though integrated projects may reach €10 million.
- Strategic Nature Projects and Strategic Integrated Projects: large-scale, multi-actor projects across territories, with EU funding up to 60%, lasting up to 14 years.
- Technical Assistance and Other Actions: support preparatory work, capacity building, or coordination/contextual studies. These grants can cover up to 95% of costs, particularly for clean energy transition coordination.

For example, a library could apply under a "Circular Economy & Quality of Life" Standard Action Project to retrofit its building with solar panels and waste recycling facilities. The EU would co-fund 60% of the eligible costs, supporting a community-driven green transformation of public infrastructure.

**Keywords** LIFE Programme; Environment funding; Climate action; Biodiversity; Circular economy; Clean energy; EU grants; Standard action project; Integrated project; Library sustainability.

### [3. Erasmus+ Programme — Green Priority \(horizontal priority for environment and climate action\)](#)

(2021- )



European Commission – DG Education, Youth, Sport & Culture (DG EAC), managed by Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA); implementation supported by National Agencies with guidance from SALTO Resource Centres (Green Strategy)

[Contact](#)

## Summary

The Erasmus+ Green Priority is one of four horizontal priorities (2021–2027), designed to mainstream environmental sustainability and climate action across all programme activities. It supports projects that integrate green practices, foster awareness of climate issues, reduce carbon footprints, and equip participants with sustainability skills. Libraries can benefit by integrating sustainable mobility in staff exchanges, implementing green practices in community programmes, or developing green skills training for users. Through the Green Erasmus framework, libraries are enabled to become ecological learning hubs, reduce their operational impact, and engage communities in climate action.

### Target Population

All eligible Erasmus+ participants, including public libraries, cultural institutions, NGOs, and schools.

Projects under Key Actions (mobility, cooperation partnerships, policy support) should include the Green Priority—particularly those focused on environmental awareness, resource efficiency, or green skills.

### Related SDGs



## Funding Rates & Project Types

The funding available for projects under the Erasmus+ Green Priority depends on the *type of action* chosen (Key Action 1, 2, or 3), as the priority is a *horizontal criterion* that enhances the score and supports additional green elements in all funded projects.

For Key Action 1 (Learning mobility of individuals):

Libraries and their staff or volunteers can apply for mobility grants that cover travel, accommodation, subsistence, and training costs.

Projects that choose eco-friendly transport (such as trains, buses, or carpooling instead of air travel) can claim a “green top-up”, which is an additional amount to support sustainable travel. The green top-up (approx. €50–€100 per participant, plus extra travel days if needed) incentivises libraries to organise mobility activities with a lower carbon footprint.

For Key Action 2 (Cooperation partnerships):

Libraries can lead or join transnational projects aimed at developing innovative practices, tools, and strategies in sustainability education, green community initiatives, or improving their own operations. Funding covers project management, travel, events, staff time, materials, and dissemination. Budgets depend on the partnership type:

- *Small-scale partnerships*: typically €30,000–€60,000 per project.

- *Cooperation partnerships*: up to €400,000–€500,000 per project, depending on duration and scope.

For Key Action 3 (Policy support):

This funds larger-scale projects aimed at policy development, advocacy, and systemic change. Libraries can participate in research or pilot projects that influence education and culture policy with a sustainability focus. Funding for KA3 is competitive and tailored to specific applications, usually covering 100% of the eligible costs.

**Keywords** Erasmus+ Green Priority; Environmental sustainability; Green Erasmus; Climate action; Green mobility; Green skills; Sustainable libraries; EU funding; Horizontal priority; Green strategy.

## 4. Creative Europe Programme

(2014- )

DG EAC, implemented through the EACEA



### Summary

Creative Europe is the EU's flagship creative funding programme (2021-2027) with a budget of approximately €2.44 billion, aimed at fostering cultural diversity, innovation, inclusion, digitalisation, and environmental sustainability across Europe's creative and cultural sectors. It features three strands: Culture, MEDIA (audiovisual), and Cross-sectoral, offering support for cooperation projects, mobility, translation, media literacy, and innovation. Libraries can participate as lead or partner organisations—especially under the Culture and Cross-sectoral strands—by developing international cultural cooperation projects, promoting literary translation, advancing media literacy, supporting creative mobility, or piloting innovative, sustainable practices in public cultural spaces.

### Target Population

Cultural and creative organisations—including archives, museums, libraries, publishers, architecture firms, festivals, and audiovisual professionals—from EU Member States and eligible non-EU partners.

### Related SDGs



### Funding Rates & Project Types

- The amount of funding a project can receive under Creative Europe depends on the strand (Culture, MEDIA, or Cross-sectoral) and the specific

application. The programme generally funds up to 60–90% of eligible costs, depending on the action.

- Under the Culture strand, libraries can lead or join European Cooperation Projects, which are the most relevant for them. Smaller-scale cooperation projects (minimum 3 partners from 3 countries) can receive up to €200,000–€300,000, with up to 80% of costs covered. - Larger-scale cooperation projects (minimum 5 partners from 5 countries) can receive up to €1–2 million, with up to 60% of costs covered.
- Under the Cross-sectoral strand, innovation labs and media literacy projects have higher ceilings—up to around €1.5 million for larger, multi-sectoral initiatives, also with a typical EU contribution of 60–80%.
- Under the MEDIA strand, grants target audiovisual professionals and projects, and budgets vary depending on the type of production, distribution, or training required.

Project budgets are determined based on the scale, number of partners, and ambition of the activities. Libraries engaging in creative mobility, literary translation, cultural heritage projects, or media literacy initiatives should look at the Culture and Cross-sectoral strands as their main entry points.

### Keywords

Creative Europe; Culture funding; MEDIA; Cross-sector; Books and translation; Libraries; Cultural heritage; Creative mobility; Green transition; EU grants.

## 5. Interreg – European Territorial Cooperation (ETC)

(1990- )



European Commission –Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

### Summary

Interreg (European Territorial Cooperation) is the EU's cohesion instrument (2021–2027), with a €10 billion ERDF budget, fostering collaboration across borders. It has four strands: A) Cross-border, B) Transnational, C) Interregional, and D) Outermost Regions. Interreg funds projects that address common challenges, such as sustainable development, biodiversity, climate resilience, innovation, social inclusion, and cultural exchange, through multinational partnerships. Libraries can participate as partners in cross-border or transnational programmes by co-producing community education, preserving shared cultural heritage, supporting sustainable mobility, or building green public spaces, allowing them to enhance their regional impact through transnational collaboration.

**Target Population**

Public authorities, universities, NGOs, cultural institutions (including libraries), chambers of commerce, research bodies, and private entities collaborating across borders in eligible regions. Projects must involve at least two regions from different countries (Strand A) or multiple countries (B–D).

**Related SDGs**



**Funding Rates & Project Types**

The amount of funding available for an Interreg project depends on the specific strand, the programme's budget in that cooperation area, and the project scale.

Most Interreg programmes co-finance between 50% and 85% of eligible project costs through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), with the remaining percentage covered by the project partners as national/regional co-funding. The exact rate varies by programme, geographical area, and EU regional aid budgets.

Typical funding ranges:

- Small-scale cross-border projects (Strand A): €500,000–€1 million total budget, with co-funding rates between 55%–85% ERDF.
- Larger transnational (B) or interregional (C) projects: €1–3 million or more, also with ERDF co-financing at 70–80%, depending on the region.
- Strategic or flagship projects can have budgets exceeding €5 million in exceptional cases.

The ERDF contribution is paid to the lead partner, who coordinates the financial management and reporting of the entire project consortium. Costs are eligible if they are directly linked to the project activities, incurred within the programme area, and justified according to the programme rules.

**Keywords**

Interreg; European Territorial Cooperation; ERDF; Cross-border; Transnational; Sustainability; Green infrastructure; Cultural heritage; EU funding; partnerships.

## 4.3. Recapitulation: Work Methodologies

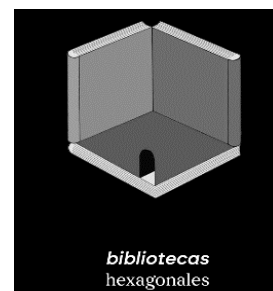
### 1. Hexagonal Libraries

(2024 - )

Hexagonal (Lab / Foundation / Consulting). Directorate-General for Books, Comics and Reading through the Subdirectorates-General for Library Coordination. Ministry of Culture.

Library Labs (Spain)

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#### Summary

A tool available to the library community that facilitates innovation in libraries. It includes two self-assessment forms (one for libraries, the other for librarians), a toolkit with 18 methodologies that can be implemented in the library, and a series of materials such as best practices and interviews that are included in the Hexagonal Libraries guide. It is an adaptation of the Public Innovation Hexagon developed by Hexagonal, a systemic innovation model based on six vectors.

**Target Population** All types of libraries/Librarians.

#### Related SDGs



#### Awards and Recognitions

The Spanish Library Cooperation Council (CCB) has actively supported the development of Hexagonal Libraries, integrating it into its innovation strategy through the Library Laboratories (LABBBs) project. In 2024, the 7th Library Laboratories Conference was dedicated exclusively to this model, highlighting its relevance in the sector.

The Subdirectorates-General for Library Coordination of the Ministry of Culture has published a detailed official publication, a guide on Hexagonal Libraries, consolidating its methodology and facilitating its implementation in various libraries.

1st Maria José Moura Award – Young Talent of the BAD (2021): Although not directly awarded to the Hexagonal Libraries model, this award was given to one of the professionals involved in its development, recognising her contribution to the library sector.

### Related Bibliography

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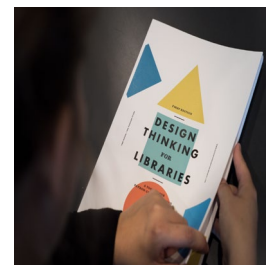
**Keywords** Hexagonal Libraries; Library innovation; Library toolkit; Systemic innovation; Library self-assessment; Library Laboratories, Best practices; SDGs.

## 2. Design Thinking for Libraries

(2015 - )

Aarhus Public Libraries & Chicago Public Library  
(Denmark/USA) in collaboration with IDEO

[hello@designthinkingforlibraries.com](mailto:hello@designthinkingforlibraries.com)



### Summary

*Design Thinking for Libraries* is a free innovation toolkit developed to introduce library staff to human-centered design methods tailored for libraries. Created with support from the Gates Foundation's Global Libraries programme in partnership with IDEO, it guides librarians through a process of understanding user needs, generating ideas, prototyping, and refining solutions. The toolkit is comprehensive, consisting of a detailed guide and an activities workbook (for a multi-week process) as well as an "at-a-glance" guide for a one-day design thinking exercise. It introduces practical tools like user interviews, journey mapping, and rapid prototyping—all adapted to the library



context. By following this methodology, libraries can co-create new or improved services, programmes, and spaces with their communities, ensuring these innovations directly meet patrons' evolving needs.

**Target Population** Library professionals (from front-line staff to library leaders) in all types of libraries, worldwide. While the toolkit was piloted in public libraries, its human-centered approach is applicable across public, academic, school, and special libraries.

**Related SDGs**



**Awards and recognitions**

*Design Thinking for Libraries* has been widely recognised as a catalyst for innovation in the library field. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Global Libraries initiative, the project was highlighted by international library organisations such as IFLA as a model for patron-centered innovation. The toolkit's success is evident in its global reach: by 2018 it had been translated into over a dozen languages (15+ as of 2023) by volunteer libraries, including Chinese, French, Spanish, Arabic, and more, making it accessible to library communities around the world.

Numerous libraries and consortia have adopted the design thinking approach. For example, the *NewLib* collaboration in Europe (which involves Italy, Portugal and Romania) used the toolkit to develop new library services, and the Shanghai Public Library in China applied it to redesign its public spaces. Library leaders praise the impact of this methodology; it has shown librarians new possibilities and opportunities to change libraries in a user's needs-driven way.

In 2019, recognising the growing community of practice, Aarhus and Chicago Public Libraries convened a global "Design Thinking" summit for librarians to share experiences and best practices. The ongoing support from the library community, including integration of design thinking into library training, conferences, and literature, underscores the toolkit's status as a seminal resource for innovative library development.

**Related Bibliography**

Aarhus Public Libraries & Chicago Public Library. (2018, September). *Design Thinking for Libraries Toolkit Reaches Librarians Around the World* (Press release on global adoption of the toolkit).

<https://designthinkingforlibraries.com/press-release-2018>

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<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18FN76ofJLHvRMpwqZQ1nMuV-AeGPvsZK>

**Keywords** Design Thinking for Libraries; Library innovation; Human-centered design; User-centered services; Prototyping; Service design;

Community engagement; Co-creation; Library toolkit; Sustainable libraries.

### 3. Library Laboratories

(2017 - )

Ministry of Culture. Directorate-General for Books, Comics and Reading through the Subdirectorates-General for Library Coordination / Medialab Prado (Madrid City Council). (Spain)

[info@labsbibliotecarios.es](mailto:info@labsbibliotecarios.es)



#### Summary

Library Laboratories is a library innovation methodology and programme that empowers libraries to become spaces of experimentation, collaboration, and co-creation in their communities. Launched in 2017 by Spain's Ministry of Culture with Medialab Prado, it provides library professionals with a toolkit and online platform to reflect, debate, and share resources on citizen participation in libraries. Key components include a self-diagnostic tool for libraries and staff, a repository of "best practice" projects, an open discussion forum (LAB-BIB) for idea exchange, and hands-on prototyping workshops held annually. The methodology's ultimate goal is to strengthen the role of libraries as inclusive civic hubs where the public can collaboratively develop projects that improve communal life.

#### Target Population

Designed for all types of libraries and library professionals interested in community-driven innovation. The programme primarily engages public libraries but is open to academic, school, and special libraries as well. Participation isn't limited to librarians – other professionals (educators, artists, technologists, etc.) are encouraged to join to bring fresh perspectives. In practice, hundreds of library staff from across various sectors (public, academic, school, etc.) and countries have taken part, reflecting the methodology's broad appeal and applicability.

#### Related SDGs



#### Awards and Recognitions

- Institutional Endorsement: Recognised by Spain's government as a key cultural innovation. Library laboratories were highlighted in Spain's official 2030 Agenda progress strategy as a transformative initiative aligning libraries with sustainable development goals. It also became an official project of the national Consejo de Cooperación Bibliotecaria (Council of Library Cooperation) as part of its strategic plan.
- Ibero-American Adoption: The methodology has been embraced internationally. The Ibero-Bibliotecas Programme (Ibero-American Public Libraries Programme)

collaborated to produce a comprehensive guide, “*Cómo montar un laboratorio de experimentación e innovación en una biblioteca*” (“How to set up an experimentation and innovation laboratory in a library”) (2021), in order to spread this model across Latin American libraries. National libraries in the region (e.g. Peru) have promoted the LabsBibliotecarios training as an international, free innovation course for cultural institutions.

- Community Impact: The programme’s reach and impact have served as a form of recognition. By its third year, Laboratorios Bibliotecarios had engaged thousands of professionals globally and inspired the creation of dozens of new library-based labs. This wide uptake testifies to its reputation as a best-practice framework for library innovation.
- Professional Accolades: The initiative is regularly showcased at library innovation forums. It has held annual “Jornadas” (LabsBibliotecarios conferences) since 2017, supported by the Ministry, as a national gathering to share results and new ideas. In addition, sector publications have documented its progress. For instance, the 2024 Anuario ThinkEPI features a reflective article by the project coordinator, reviewing seven years of LabsBibliotecarios and underlining its significance in the library field.

### Related Bibliography

- Grupo de Trabajo Laboratorios Bibliotecarios. (2025). *Bibliotecas y participación ciudadana: 5 años del Curso Laboratorios Bibliotecarios 2025*. Consejo de Cooperación Bibliotecaria. [https://labsbibliotecarios.es/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Bibliotecas-y-participacion-ciudadana\\_5-anos-del-Curso-Laboratorios-Bibliotecarios.pdf](https://labsbibliotecarios.es/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Bibliotecas-y-participacion-ciudadana_5-anos-del-Curso-Laboratorios-Bibliotecarios.pdf)
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<https://www.ccbiblio.es/entrevista-a-diego-gracia-responsable-del-proyecto-laboratorios-bibliotecarios-espacios-para-la-creacion-y-experimentacion-colectiva/#:~:text=En%202016%20participamos%20en%20un,interesante%20para%20las%20bibliotecas%20p%C3%ABlicas>

**Keywords** Innovation; Citizen participation; Collaboration; Co-creation; Community engagement; Social innovation; Prototyping; Sustainable development; Library innovation; Public libraries.

## 4. Third Place Libraries

(1989 - )



Ray Oldenburg; embraced in library practice by institutions like IFLA and ALA

### Summary

The "Third Place" is a concept describing informal public spaces beyond home and work that foster community connection. In library science, it refers to the library's role as a neutral, welcoming hub or "living room of the city" for socialising, learning, and civic life. A Third Place library prioritises people over collections, offering comfortable spaces, flexible hours, and interactive programmes, so visitors can work, relax, meet others, and feel a sense of belonging. Key features include free and inclusive access, a low-stress atmosphere, and user-centered services that encourage conversation and community engagement.

### Target Population

Primarily public libraries and community librarians focused on community engagement and space design. The Third Place approach is also applied in school and academic libraries to create inviting, student-centered spaces and improve well-being.

### Related SDGs



### Awards and Recognitions

- Institutional Endorsement: The library-as-third-place model has been highlighted by international bodies. For example, an IFLA World Library and Information Congress forum in 2016 focused on “moving beyond the third place” in library design. Many national library strategies (e.g. the UK’s Libraries Deliver 2016 report) emphasise the library’s community hub role.
- Awards: Major new libraries embodying the third place philosophy have earned global recognition. Aarhus’s Dokk1 library in Denmark, designed as a vast community living room, was named Public Library of the Year 2016. Helsinki’s Oodi Central Library—an open civic meeting place—won the Public Library of the Year 2019.
- Academic & Policy References: The concept is well-established in LIS research and practice. A 2007 library journal article titled “Libraries with Lattes: The New Third Place” signaled early professional adoption of the term. Since then, numerous studies and reports (e.g. Public Library Quarterly, IFLA/UN reports) have reinforced the importance of libraries’ third place function in building social capital and community development.

### Related Bibliography

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**Keywords** Third place; Community hub; Social infrastructure; Public space; Library design; User-centered; Community engagement; Inclusive access; Social capital.

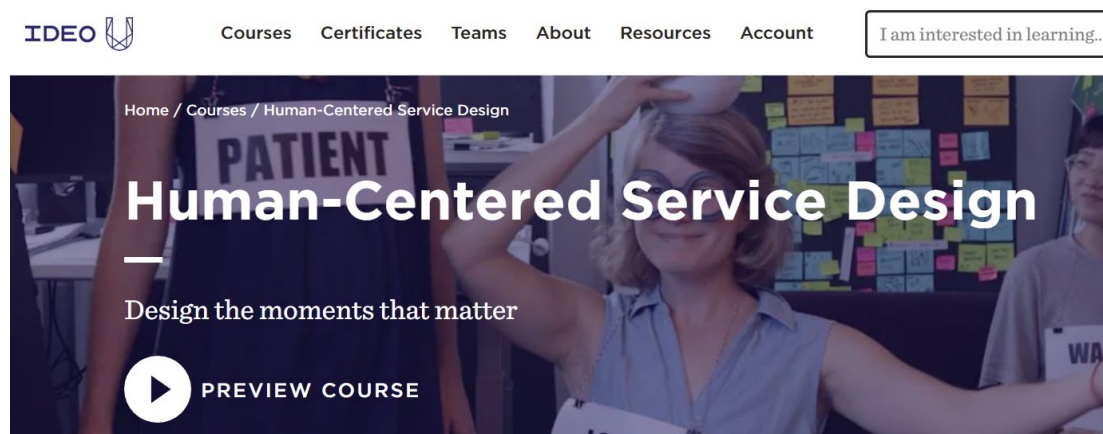
## 5. Human-Centered Service Design

(2009 - )

Service design as a discipline evolved in the 1990s–2000s from human-centered design (IDEO, Livework, Engine Group, Köln International School of Design) and has



been adapted in library contexts by practitioners and associations worldwide.  
(United States)



### Summary

Human-Centered Service Design (HCSD) is a methodology for redesigning services from the perspective of users' needs, behaviors, and experiences. Applied in libraries, it helps staff co-create better services by mapping users' journeys, identifying pain points, and prototyping solutions. Key phases include building personas (user profiles), creating customer journeys, visualising experience maps, and pinpointing pain points in service delivery. The approach prioritises empathy and collaboration between users and staff. Examples in libraries include reorganising children's areas based on family needs, streamlining loan/return workflows, or improving signage and wayfinding. The methodology leverages tools such as those in the [Service Design Toolkit](#) to guide teams through each phase.

### Target Population

Library managers, service designers, and all library staff who aim to improve or innovate services with a strong focus on users' real-life experiences. Applicable to all types of libraries—public, academic, school, and special—particularly those undergoing transformation or needing to improve engagement and accessibility.

### Related SDGs



### Awards and Recognitions

Service Design has been widely adopted as a best practice methodology across sectors, including libraries.

The approach has been endorsed in library innovation programmes such as IFLA's Global Vision and Public Libraries 2030, and featured in conferences such as UX in Libraries conferences and the Service Design Global Conference.

Recognised projects include the redesign of the Helsinki Oodi Central Library's user journeys and public spaces, informed by HCSD principles.

Academic articles and LIS curricula increasingly incorporate service design as a standard for innovation in library services.

### Related Bibliography

Oblo. (s.d.). *Service Design Tools*. <https://servicedesigntools.org/>

**Keywords** Human-centered design; Service design; Customer journey; Experience mapping; People; Pain points; Co-creation; Library innovation; User-centered services; Service design tools.

## 4.4. Coda: Resources

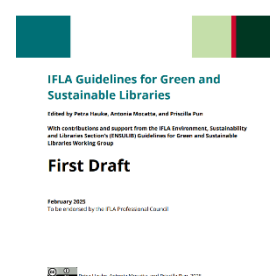
### 1. IFLA Guidelines for Green and Sustainable Libraries

(2025)

IFLA's Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section  
(IFLA/ENSULIB) (Netherlands)

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[nipun@um.edu.mo](mailto:nipun@um.edu.mo)



### Summary

The *IFLA Guidelines for Green and Sustainable Libraries* offer a comprehensive framework to support libraries worldwide in becoming environmentally responsible, socially inclusive, and economically sustainable institutions. Developed by IFLA's Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (ENSULIB), the guidelines are designed for libraries of all types and sizes and align with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs. This first edition of the Guidelines is the result of a collaborative effort from the global library field. The final draft of the Guidelines has been submitted for final approval by IFLA.

**Target Population** All types of libraries/Librarians.

### Related SDGs



### Awards and Recognitions

The *IFLA Guidelines for Green and Sustainable Libraries* are a newly developed framework (first draft published in February 2025), and as such, they have not yet received specific awards or recognition as a standalone document. However, the work behind these guidelines, as well as the initiatives promoted by ENSULIB, have been internationally recognised. A notable example is the *IFLA Green Library Award*, an annual prize established by ENSULIB that honours innovative and impactful library projects in the field of environmental sustainability. Libraries implementing strategies aligned with these guidelines may be strong candidates for this award. Additionally,



ENSULIB has gained global recognition through its previous publications such as *Going Green* and *New Libraries in Old Buildings*, which have been widely used and translated into multiple languages. The guidelines are currently under review for official endorsement by the IFLA Professional Council, which would represent a significant institutional validation within the global library community. Furthermore, the principles outlined in the document align with the United Nations SDGs, positioning them for integration into national strategies and international sustainability dialogues. Once formally adopted, the guidelines may serve as the foundation for certification programs, benchmarking tools, or future recognitions at both national and international levels.

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**Keywords** Innovation; Collaboration; Community engagement; Prototyping; Sustainable development; Public libraries; Green libraries.

## 2. Action guide for university and scientific libraries on the SDGs

(2021)

CRUE. REBIUN. Spanish Network of University Libraries (Spain)

[rebiun@crue.org](mailto:rebiun@crue.org)



### Summary

This action guide is one of the initiatives aligned with the objectives of REBIUN's 4th Strategic Plan, aimed at promoting the contribution of Spanish universities and scientific libraries to the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. Based on the framework of the six structural transformations proposed by Sachs et al. (2019) as essential to achieving the SDGs, university and scientific libraries within the REBIUN network should, in terms of making their contribution to sustainable development more actionable, focus on the transformation related to education, gender, and equality, as well as on the transformation that guides the digital revolution toward sustainable development.

These two transformations can also be interconnected, enabling libraries to focus on ensuring that the digital revolution not only does not negatively impact the quality of higher education but actually improves it. This improvement also includes promoting education for sustainable development, enhancing educational funding and its efficient and equitable use, and reducing inequalities, particularly in the area of access to knowledge. This includes gender inequality and other disparities addressed in SDG 10, as well as the digital divide. From this perspective, technology, content (scientific and academic), and training should be integrated under the umbrella of sustainable development.

**Target** All types of libraries/Librarians.  
**Population**

### Related SDGs



### Awards and Recognitions

As the Guidelines are formally adopted and implemented, they are likely to become a benchmark for future recognition programs and sustainability certifications in the library sector.

### Related Bibliography

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[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331585583\\_Sandbox\\_Zero\\_Rethinking\\_SustainabilityAs-Usual\\_Introduction\\_Sustainability-As-Usual](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331585583_Sandbox_Zero_Rethinking_SustainabilityAs-Usual_Introduction_Sustainability-As-Usual)
- Nilsson, M., Griggs, D. & Visbeck, M. (2016). Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals. *Nature*, 534 (7607), 320-322.
- Sachs, J. D., Schmidt-Traub, G., Mazzucato, M., Messner, D., Nakicenovic, N., & Rockström, J. (2019). Six transformations to achieve the sustainable development goals. *Nature Sustainability*, 2(9), 805-814
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- United Nations. (2019). The future is now: Science for achieving sustainable development.  
[https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202020%20review\\_Spa.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202020%20review_Spa.pdf)
- Walsh, P. P., Murphy, E., & Horan, D. (2020). The role of science, technology and innovation in the UN 2030 agenda. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 154, 119957.

### Keywords

Academic libraries; Scientific libraries; Universities; Access to knowledge; Education for sustainable development; REBIUN.

## 3. Tools for Green Libraries

(2025)

IFLA/ENSULIB (Netherlands)

[rtoril@oapn.es](mailto:rtoril@oapn.es)



### Summary

The goal of this growing Green Libraries Toolbox is to provide resources and stories to help all people working in libraries to learn, investigate, find partners and

discover ways to get involved with sustainability in libraries. The document is organised into five sections:

- Clarifying concepts: defines important concepts, ideas and challenging references.
- International framework: includes guides, documents and resources made by the UN and IFLA as well as a list of international and national working groups in this field from countries around the world.
- Resources: suggests links to books, articles, journals, videos, podcasts, repositories, games, blogs, and a green building section.
- Green Libraries in the World: shares a list of networks and inspiring experiences of sustainable libraries in different countries in their own language.
- Annual International Days: offers a table of selected UN International Days related to the environment, which we have connected to the 2030 Agenda SDGs.

**Target Population**

All types of libraries/Librarians.

**Related SDGs**



**Keywords**

Sustainability; Environmental Practices; Eco-Friendly Infrastructure; Community Engagement; Green Library Strategies.

## [4. The Green Library Guide](#)

(2021)

The green library working group Canopée Public Library (France)

[sophie.bobet@paris.fr](mailto:sophie.bobet@paris.fr)



### **Summary**

This booklet aims to comment on the environmental measures as well as the flaws of the Canopée Public Library so that we can learn how to minimise our impact on the planet in the long term. The five chapters cover the topics of 'Work environment', 'Book flow', 'Reader services', 'Activities and events' and 'Communication', and they

comment on both the steps that people have already taken and ones we should take in the future. The ecological measures and recommendations also adhere to their Environmental Management System (EMS), and the authors intend to publish further editions in order to ensure ongoing progress. Ideally, this booklet will foster discussion and enable partnerships between different institutions with the common goal of being a green library.

**Target Population** All types of libraries/Librarians.

**Related SDGs**



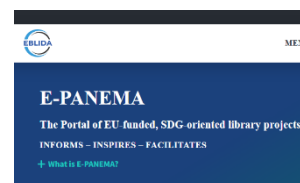
**Keywords** Green Libraries; Sustainability; Environmental impact; Environmental education; Community engagement.

## 5. E-PANEMA

(2023 - )

European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA) (Netherlands)

[ebilda@ebilda.org](mailto:ebilda@ebilda.org)



### **Summary**

E-PANEMA (Eblida PARTNErship MAtching tool) is an innovative platform designed to support library projects aligned with the SDGs and funded by EU programmes. It functions both as a discovery tool, helping libraries plan in line with European frameworks and the SDGs, and as a community tool facilitating partnerships between libraries across Europe. With E-PANEMA, users can stay informed about groundbreaking developments in the library sector, be inspired by successful EU-funded projects, and be facilitated in their search for partners and planning resources. Whether you're preparing a project proposal or seeking collaboration, E-PANEMA empowers libraries to connect, learn, and lead with confidence in the European context.

**Target Population** All types of libraries/Librarians.

**Related SDGs**



**Keywords** EU-funded library projects; SDGs; Library partnerships; Library planning.

# *Scherzo*

## 5 Movement III: Best Practices

Across Europe, libraries are embracing sustainability as a core value, transforming their spaces, services, and strategies to support environmental responsibility. These "green libraries" lead by example, by reducing their ecological footprint, promoting climate awareness, and inspiring their communities to act sustainably.

This selection represents just a sample of the many inspiring initiatives taking place across the continent. Given the diversity and the number of countries in Europe, additional practices and projects will be included in future editions of this document.

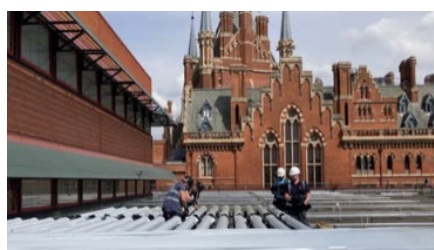
### 5.1. Infrastructures: Building

#### 1. British Library installs solar technology on roof

(2024)

British Library (United Kingdom)

[customer@bl.uk](mailto:customer@bl.uk)



#### Summary

The British Library has installed solar technology across its entire roof, hoping to reduce the building's CO2 emissions by 55 tonnes per year. The energy generated will be used for heating and hot water, as well as to maintain the precise temperature and humidity conditions needed to preserve its national collection.

Naked Energy, the company awarded the project, stated that the installation, consisting of 950 solar collectors distributed across the library's roof, is "the largest solar thermal project in the UK." Patrick Dixon, director of heritage and construction at the British Library, stated that the project is part of the organization's "commitment to environmental action."

**Target Population** Staff and Visitors; Well-funded libraries

**Budget** 1.5 million pounds sterling.

**Evaluation** Reduction of CO2 emissions. Generation of renewable energy. Conservation of cultural heritage, namely the library's national

collection. Visibility and leadership: a pioneering project and an example for other historic buildings to follow.

### Related SDGs



### Related Bibliography

Naked energy. (2024). *British Library installs innovative solar tech to decarbonise heat – penning a brighter, greener future*. Naked Energy.  
<https://nakedenergy.com/pressreleases/british-library-installs-virtu-to-decarbonise-heat>

Warren, J. (2024, October 14). British Library installs solar technology on roof. *BBC News*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4q08lzpn2yo>

**Keywords** Sustainable buildings; Architecture; Renewable energy; Green libraries; United Kingdom.

## 2. A Sustainable Library Model Integrated with Nature

(2014 - 2023)

Rami Library (Turkey)



<https://www.instagram.com/ramikutuphanesi/>

[info@ramikutuphanesi.gov.tr](mailto:info@ramikutuphanesi.gov.tr)

### Summary

Located in a restored 18th-century military complex, the Rami Library combines heritage preservation with ecological innovation. The library features a 51,000 m<sup>2</sup> area with green courtyards, 40+ tree species, rainwater harvesting, and programmes to foster eco-literacy through workshops and green social responsibility projects. It serves as a model for urban ecological transformation in cultural institutions. Restoration began in 2014 and was completed in 2023. It is fully operational with continuous environmental programmes and it was certified as sustainable by Biosphere in 2023.



**Target Population** General public, children, students, families, community groups.

**Budget** Public funding through the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

**Related SDGs**



### Awards and Recognitions

Biosphere Certification (2023).

**Keywords** Sustainable buildings; Architecture; Renewable energy; Green libraries; Turkey.

## 3. Burdur Public Library Eco-Library: Green Infrastructure And Energy Efficiency

(2023 - 2024)

Burdur Public Library (Turkey)

[kutuphane15@ktb.gov.tr](mailto:kutuphane15@ktb.gov.tr)

<https://www.instagram.com/burdurilhalkkutuphanesi/>



### Summary

The Burdur Eco-Library integrates green infrastructure such as solar panels, rainwater systems, LED lighting, and bicycle parks. It serves 35,000+ users annually with 600+ environment-themed programmes including climate education, recycling workshops, and a planetarium. The library emphasizes energy efficiency and biophilic design, aligning strongly with IFLA Green Library principles. It underwent this green transformation in 2023-2024 and is now fully active. Solar expansion to 80 kW is currently in progress.

**Target Population** City residents, students, educators, children, adults of all ages.

**Budget** Public funding through the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

**Evaluation** Saved 10+ tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, and also created awareness on climate change and sustainability through active community programmes.

**Related SDGs**



## Awards and Recognitions

Longlisted for IFLA Green Library Award 2025

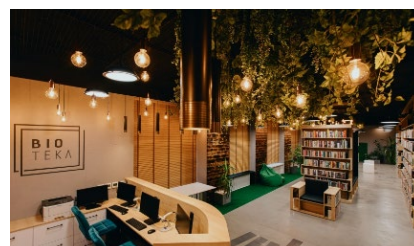
**Keywords** Solar energy; Biophilic design; Eco-library; Rainwater harvesting; Green transformation; Turkey.

## 4. Bioteka – The Green Library of Lublin

(2020 - )

Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna (Poland)

[mbp@mbp.lublin.pl](mailto:mbp@mbp.lublin.pl)



## Summary

Bioteka is an innovative library located in Lublin, Poland, renowned for its sustainable architecture and focus on environmental sustainability. The project utilises natural and recycled materials, including wood and stone, and features a community garden where local residents can contribute plants. It also offers educational programmes on ecology, sustainability, and responsible living, creating a direct connection to the local community and promoting environmental awareness.

**Target Population** Residents of Lublin and surrounding areas, with a special focus on families, schools, and community groups interested in sustainability and the environment.

## Related SDGs



## Awards and Recognitions

Iron A' Design Award 2022

## Related Bibliography

Design Radiant (n.d.). *Bioteka: The Greenest Library in Europe. A Complete Project Inspired by Nature and Sustainable Development*. Design Radiant.  
<https://designradiant.com/133509>

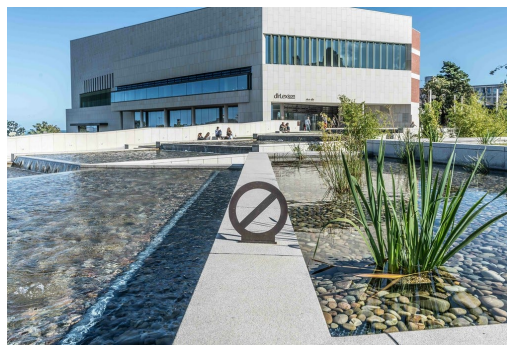
**Keywords** Sustainability; Environmental awareness; Green libraries; Sustainable public space; Bioclimatic architecture; Poland.

## 5. Green and Sustainable Library: dlr Lexlcon

(2014 - )

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Library  
(DLR Lexlcon) (Ireland)

[libraryculture@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:libraryculture@dlrcoco.ie)



### Summary

The DLR Lexlcon library, opened in 2014, is a landmark green building in Dún Laoghaire, Ireland. It integrates sustainable architecture, community engagement, and environmental education. The library's design prioritises energy efficiency, natural lighting, and environmentally responsible materials, while also hosting programmes promoting sustainability and climate awareness.

<b>Target Population</b>	Local community of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, including families, students, educators, and the general public..
<b>Budget</b>	Estimated €36.6 million (entire cultural and library complex project).
<b>Evaluation</b>	The library has been widely recognised for its environmental design and continues to receive positive feedback for its community engagement and eco-conscious infrastructure. It is viewed as a model of sustainable public architecture in Ireland.

### Related SDGs



### Awards and Recognitions

Shortlisted and recognised in several architecture and design awards for sustainability and innovation.

### Related bibliography

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. (2012). *Shaping the future. Case studies in adaptation and reuse in historic urban environments*. Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. [https://architecturefoundation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/DAHG-shaping\\_the\\_future2012.pdf](https://architecturefoundation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/DAHG-shaping_the_future2012.pdf)

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Library Service. (s.d.). *Documents and publications*. <https://www.dlrcoco.ie/dlr-document-repository>

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Library Service. (s.d.). *County Council Libraries = Comhairle Contae Leabharlanna*. <https://libraries.dlrcoco.ie/>

**Keywords** Green libraries; Sustainability; Community engagement; Eco-design; Energy efficiency; Architecture.

## 5.2. Networks and Work Groups

### 1. Spanish Network of Environmental Information and Documentation Centres (Red de Centros de Información y Documentación Ambiental, RECIDA)

(2004 - )



RECIDA / National Centre of Environmental Education (Spain)

[rtoril@oapn.es](mailto:rtoril@oapn.es) / [bib.ceneam@oapn.es](mailto:bib.ceneam@oapn.es)

#### Summary

The Spanish Network of Environmental Information and Documentation Centres (RECIDA), made up of more than 180 documentation centres and libraries dedicated to the environment and protected natural areas. The centers come from different types of institutions (university, national, regional, local, associations, foundations, etc). The network emerged in 2004 from the Permanent Seminars that the National Centre for Environmental Education (CENEAM), National Parks Agency, has organised since 2002. The centers carry out joint projects with the aim of raising awareness among different audiences. In 2019, they were present at the COP25 Climate Summit.

#### Target Population

Green libraries, information professionals, green librarians, citizens

#### Related SDGs



#### Awards and Recognitions

2022 - 16th The Spanish Society for Scientific Documentation and Information (SEDIC) National Award for Quality and Innovation Carmen Rodríguez Guerrero

2021 - IFLA Award Finalist: Best Green Library Project

2018 - Finalist CCB (Library Cooperation Council) Seal, Specialised Libraries category.

#### Related Bibliography

IFLA/ENSULIB. (2021). *ENSULIB Announces 6th IFLA Green Library Award 2021 Shortlist Green Library Project 'RECIDA, The Spanish Network of Green Libraries Working for Sustainability'*. <https://www.ifla.org/ensulib-announces->

[6th-ifla-green-library-award-2021-shortlist-green-library-project-recida-the-spanish-network-of-green-libraries-working-for-sustainability/](https://www.recida.net/en/content/red-de-centros-de-informaci%C3%B3n-y-documentaci%C3%B3n-ambiental-recida)

Sellés Carot, A. & Martínez González, B.(Coords.). (2021). *La implicación de las bibliotecas españolas en la Agenda 2030*. Consejo de Cooperación Bibliotecaria. [https://libreria.cultura.gob.es/libro/la-implicacion-de-las-bibliotecas-espanolas-en-la-agenda-2030\\_5396/](https://libreria.cultura.gob.es/libro/la-implicacion-de-las-bibliotecas-espanolas-en-la-agenda-2030_5396/)

RECIDA. (2025). *Presentation*. <https://www.recida.net/en/content/red-de-centros-de-informaci%C3%B3n-y-documentaci%C3%B3n-ambiental-recida>

Toril Moreno, R. (2022). *Climate Actions in the Spanish Network of Green and Sustainable Libraries: Working to Achieve the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda* [video]. Seminar EUROLIS, Session 3 – November 23rd 2022, Instituto Cervantes, London. Min: 1.29. <https://www.youtube.com/live/27TNINubpT0?si=5TSbslAKFYQsgq7d>

Toril Moreno, R. (2022). Bibliotecas Verdes conectadas en acción contra el cambio climático. *CLIP de SEDIC: Revista de la Sociedad Española de Documentación e Información Científica*, (86), 56-66. <https://doi.org/10.47251/clip.n86.96>

**Keywords** Networks; Green libraries; Cooperation; Spain.

## [2. The Sustainability Group](#)

(2004 - )

Malmö University Library (Sweden)

Sara Kjellberg, Library director:  
[sara.kjellberg@mau.se](mailto:sara.kjellberg@mau.se)



### Summary

In 2022, Malmö University established a sustainability group to systematically integrate sustainability into the Library's operations. The group has engaged staff for input and built networks at various levels within the university, nationally, across the Nordic region, and internationally. It was also the first library in Sweden to sign the Green Library Manifesto.

Their responsibilities include defining the Library's sustainability goals in line with the university's environmental objectives, monitoring these aspects in operational planning, and proposing related professional development activities.

In collaboration with the university and local partners such as the City of Malmö, the group has organised themed weeks, including Climate Action Week (2022 and 2023), Circular Week (2024), and Week 17 (2025).

Examples of activities include: Climate fiction book clubs ("Read Green"), plant cutting and seed exchanges, clothing and book swaps, collection of old eyeglasses, sharing staycation tips, read-aloud sessions and climate fiction exhibitions, a book display covering all 17 SDGs with both fiction and non-fiction.

**Target Population** Librarians, students, researchers, and the general public.

**Evaluation** By forming a dedicated group to focus on sustainability issues, they have been able to monitor the sustainability aspect of the library, propose competence-building activities related to sustainability, and keep the conversation about sustainability alive among students, staff, and library colleagues.

**Related SDGs**



**Keywords** Sustainability group; Malmö University Library; Week17; Green libraries; Sweden.



## 5.3. Libraries of Things: Access to Shared Community Resources

### 1. Library of Things

(2020 - )

Asikkalan kirjasto (Finland)

[kirjasto@asikkala.fi](mailto:kirjasto@asikkala.fi)



#### Summary

This project allows Asikkala residents to share tools and equipment through the library. Citizens donate items in good condition, which are then loaned to other residents, promoting the circular economy and reducing the need to purchase new products.

#### Target Population

Asikkala residents

#### Evaluation

107 loans in the first year (Asikkala has a population of 8,000). Estimated savings of 5,900 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e in one year. Improved social cohesion and quality of life for residents. Increased number of library users.

#### Related SDGs



#### Related Bibliography

Tuominen & Svartström. (2020). *Tool and device sharing library from a local example to an interregional good practice*. LAB Focus.:

<https://blogit.lab.fi/labfocus/en/tool-and-device-sharing-library-from-a-local-example-to-an-interregional-good-practice/>

#### Keywords

Circular economy; Library of things; Consumption; Finland.

### 2. Library of Things

(2023 - )

Library of the Goethe-Institut in Warsaw (Poland)

[bibliothek-warschau@goethe.de](mailto:bibliothek-warschau@goethe.de)



### Summary

We often buy expensive items that we only use once or very rarely. However, these items not only take up space in our homes, but also threaten the limited resources of our planet due to their large-scale production. The Library of Things offers an innovative, practical and environmentally friendly way of using things. It encourages borrowing instead of buying and thus contributes to sustainability and conscious consumption. The Library of Things currently consists of 58 items, devices and sports equipment.

#### Target Population

No fixed target group. Everyone interested in sustainable action.

#### Budget

Flexible each year, not fixed.

#### Related SDGs



#### Keywords

Goethe-Institut; Sustainability; Circular economy; Library of things; Consumption; Poland.

## 3. Gröna ateljén/ The Green Studio

(2023 - )

City library in Örnsköldsvik (Sweden)

[Johanna.sandberg@ornskoldsvik.se](mailto:Johanna.sandberg@ornskoldsvik.se) / [digidelcenter@ornskoldsvik.se](mailto:digidelcenter@ornskoldsvik.se)



### Summary

The Green Studio is an open and inclusive space within the library for everyone, adults and children alike, where you have the opportunity to borrow tools, machines, and equipment for your creations and unleash your creativity and resourcefulness. In the Green Studio, you will find materials from Startpunkten that can be reused in your creations.

The Green Studio is based on a collaboration with the recycling stations through their second-hand store Startpunkten. They gather materials for the Green Studio. In the Green Studio, the materials are sorted with the same signs as at the recycling centres in order to educate people about reuse.

In a sustainability-conscious society, all residents are equipped with equal opportunities for knowledge, creativity, and lifelong learning. Libraries are an arena that inspires and invites creativity and shared experiences. Creativity increases the conditions for problem-solving, generates new ideas, and drives our society forward.

**Target  
Population**

All ages

**Evaluation**

The implementation of the Green Studio at the library has yielded significant positive outcomes. It has become a vibrant, inclusive space that fosters creativity and learning for both adults and children. The collaboration with recycling stations and the second-hand store Startpunkten has provided valuable materials for reuse, promoting sustainability and environmental awareness. This initiative has strengthened the library's role as a hub for lifelong learning, innovation, and social interaction, contributing to the overall wellbeing and development of the local community.

**Related  
SDGs**



**Keywords**

Creative reuse; Sustainability education; Makerspace; Community engagement; Circular economy; Sweden.

## 5.4. Inclusion and Social Justice

### 1. *Semana da Inclusão* / Inclusion Week (Braga)

(2023 - )

Biblioteca Lúcio Craveiro da Silva  
(Portugal)

[blcs@blcs.pt](mailto:blcs@blcs.pt)



#### Summary

The Lúcio Craveiro da Silva Library organised the *Semana da Inclusão* (Inclusion Week), a programme of around 40 activities dedicated to promoting inclusion for people with specific needs and disabilities. The initiative combined leisure, culture, and activism, offering theatrical readings, exhibitions, book presentations, performances, talks, debates, sports activities, workshops, video screenings, and dance sessions. By engaging the community through diverse formats, the event fostered awareness, accessibility, and active participation for all.

#### Target Population

People with disabilities; Local communities

#### Evaluation

Diverse and well-structured program. Strong local collaboration. Visibility and empowerment: provides people with disabilities opportunities to showcase artistic and manual talents in a normalized public context, reinforcing empowerment and social recognition.

#### Related SDGs



#### Awards and Recognitions

“Libraries, Development and the 2030 Agenda” Award 2024, promoted by BAD – Librarians, Archivists, Information and Documentation Professionals, and by the Directorate-General for Books, Archives and Libraries.

The library is also part of the UNESCO Associated Libraries Network, reflecting its commitment to inclusion and accessibility.

#### Related Bibliography

Serviço Biblioteca no Apoio à Inclusão da Biblioteca Lúcio Craveiro da Silva. (2023).  
*Semana da Inclusão Programa.*  
[https://www.blcs.pt/portal/docs/Programa\\_Semana\\_INCLUIR\\_2023.pdf](https://www.blcs.pt/portal/docs/Programa_Semana_INCLUIR_2023.pdf)

**Keywords** Inclusion; Disabilities; Social Justice; Portugal.

## 2. A food-sharing fridge in the library

(2020 - )

Berlin-Pankow Public Library. Berlin, Germany

[Tim.schumann@ba-pankow.berlin.de](mailto:Tim.schumann@ba-pankow.berlin.de)  
[tim.schumann.stb@gmail.com](mailto:tim.schumann.stb@gmail.com)



Bild: Verbraucherzentrale Berlin / Henning Kunz

### Summary

Since 2020, the library has offered a food-sharing corner for dry goods and a foodsharing fridge where people from the neighbourhood and library users can share food together. Only a handful of public libraries in Germany had food sharing projects at the time, and they only offered a corner for dry goods.

The Heinrich Böll Library was the first public library in Germany to offer a foodsharing fridge and thus also the opportunity to exchange food that needs to be refrigerated. The project started as a cooperation project with the Berlin consumer advice centre ("Verbraucherzentrale") as part of the 'Berlin eats climate-friendly' project, but then continued independently. Anyone may hand in food and anyone may take food that has been handed in, free of charge.

The aim of the project was, on the one hand, to draw attention to the high level of food waste in Germany and, on the other, to develop public spaces into places for foodsharing. After some time, a small food company began to supply the fridge with surplus produce and a local bakery kept bringing in unsold bread and rolls.

In addition, the foodsharing corner and the foodsharing fridge were gradually supplied more and more by the local food sharing community.

### Target Population

In principle, anyone can use the foodsharing area. However, as the Heinrich Böll Library is located in a neighbourhood where significantly more elderly and poor people live than the average in Berlin, the food sharing fridge does not just fulfil the goal of saving food from going to waste. It also aims to enable people in the neighbourhood to lead a more sustainable lifestyle, as they have a place where they can drop off food they no longer need. The library can also support poorer people who have little money for food through the foodsharing fridge

### Related SDGs



**Keywords** Public libraries; Foodsharing; Germany.

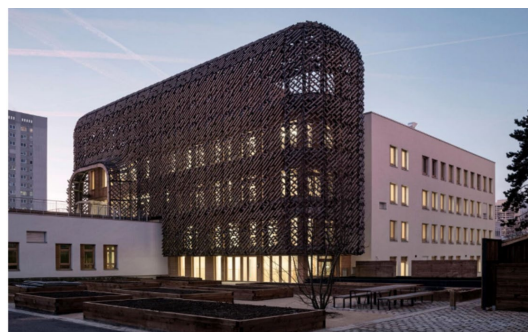
### 3. James Baldwin Library

(2023 - )

James Baldwin Library (Paris, France)

[Sophie.bobet@paris.fr](mailto:Sophie.bobet@paris.fr)

[mediatheque.jamesbaldwin@paris.fr](mailto:mediatheque.jamesbaldwin@paris.fr)



#### Summary

The James Baldwin Library is part of Paris's public library network. It shares a 2,800 m<sup>2</sup> eco-designed building and a 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> green site with the Maison des Réfugiés, run by Emmaüs Solidarité and Singa. It also serves as one of five deaf-access hubs in the city's network.

Designed in line with the 2017 Paris Climate Plan, the library features low-tech, energy-positive architecture with solar panels and bio-sourced, recycled materials. Its operations reflect sustainable values, including a streamlined acquisitions policy (target: 80,000 items) and programmes that promote environmental awareness.

The library pursues four main goals: Offering inclusive culture in a working-class area, combining strong local engagement with network-wide services, sharing spaces and projects with refugee-focused organisations, and developing focused collections and cultural programming.

There is a community focus on exiled people, ecology, feminism and LGBT+ culture. It features a youth library zone, instruments and games lending, and multilingual and accessibility features including deaf-friendly programming.

**Target Population** Refugees and local residents of all ages, the LGBTQ+ community, young people, people with accessibility issues.

**Evaluation** Monitored through municipal reports and partner feedback (Emmaüs and Singa). It is also part of the Climate Plan assessment.

#### Related SDGs



#### Awards and Recognitions

Best Green Library/Grand-Scale Project" ENSULIB IFLA Green Library Award 2025.

Nominated in architectural and urban design competitions for sustainable and inclusive buildings.

**Keywords** Inclusive libraries; Low-carbon architecture; Refugee support; Community collaboration; Accessibility; Climate action; France.



## 5.5. Dissemination of SDGs

### 1. SDGs Activities Programme

(2023 - )

Biblioteca Municipal António Mota,  
Baião (Portugal)

[biblioteca@cm-baiao.pt](mailto:biblioteca@cm-baiao.pt)



#### Summary

Cultural and educational activities aligned with the 17 SDGs. The library in collaboration with other organizations and local bodies—can contribute to achieving the 17 SDGs. The library works as vibrant community hubs, not only fostering reading but also promoting inclusion, integration, and intercultural exchange. In doing so, the library responds to the diverse needs of their audiences within their economic, cultural, and social contexts, while preserving the past and, at the same time, helping to shape the future.

**Target  
Population**

Local communities

**Related  
SDGs**



#### Awards and Recognitions

“Libraries, Development and the 2030 Agenda” Award 2024

Library of the year. Archello Awards 2024

#### Related bibliography

Santos, I. (2021). *Nas bibliotecas não há bandeiras: os 17 ODS e o papel das bibliotecas públicas na formação de cidadãos do mundo*. Repositório Aberto da Universidade do Porto. <https://repositorio-aberto.up.pt/handle/10216/161549>

**Keywords**

Sustainability; Education; Community; SDGs; Portugal.

## 2. A Responsible Library as Promoter of Environmental Awareness

(2019 - 2020 )

Oulu Public Library (Finland)

[minna.mannikko@ouka.fi](mailto:minna.mannikko@ouka.fi)



### Summary

The project focused on promoting environmental awareness among library users and staff, reducing the environmental impact of library operations, and developing an action plan for sustainable development. A green visual concept, "Sustainable Library," was designed to support environmental communication.

### Target Population

Library users and staff

### Related SDGs



### Awards and Recognitions

IFLA Green Library Award 2021 in the "Green Library Project" category, highlighting its innovative approach to sustainability and environmental awareness.

### Related bibliography

Männikkö, M. (2021). *A Responsible Library as Promoter of Environmental Awareness*. IFLA. [https://www.ifla.org/ifla-publications/ifla-ensulib-newsletter\\_vol1\\_issue1/a-responsible-library-as-promoter-of-environmental-awareness/](https://www.ifla.org/ifla-publications/ifla-ensulib-newsletter_vol1_issue1/a-responsible-library-as-promoter-of-environmental-awareness/)

### Keywords

Sustainability; Environmental awareness; Finland.

## 3. Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Museums and Libraries

(2020 - )

Library Association of Latvia, Latvian  
Museum Association, UNESCO National  
Commission (Latvia)

Inga Surgunte, [inga.surgunte@skaidrs.org](mailto:inga.surgunte@skaidrs.org)

Zane Grīngalde,  
[zane.grinvalde@madona.lv](mailto:zane.grinvalde@madona.lv)

Kristīne Deksne, [kristine.deksne@lnb.lv](mailto:kristine.deksne@lnb.lv)



## Summary

Since 2020, the “Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Museums and Libraries” conference series has been jointly organised by the Latvian Museum Association, Latvian Library Association, and Latvian National Commission for UNESCO. Its aim is to enhance the role of museums and libraries in community resilience and sustainable development. Key activities: Three conferences (2021 online, 2023 in Latvia with online streaming, 2025 in Ukraine with online streaming). Exchange visits to Lithuania, Estonia, Georgia, and Moldova to learn best practices in SDG-focused museums and libraries. Open-access publication: [Localizing the SDGs Through Museums and Libraries](#). Planned online seminars (Sept–Nov 2025) to support local SDG projects and professional collaboration.

The initiative is supported by UNESCO’s Participation Programme and involves cooperation between NGOs representing museums and libraries in the Baltic States, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

**Evaluation** Over the years, the following countries have joined: Estonia, Lithuania (from 2020), Georgia (from 2022), Moldova (from 2022), Ukraine (from 2024).

## Related SDGs



## Related Bibliography

Latvia’s National Library. (2022). *Conference “Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Baltic museums and libraries”* [video playlist]. [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0I488g\\_INq99xgTbYySMx-JVY7D1VcYD](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0I488g_INq99xgTbYySMx-JVY7D1VcYD)

Latvia’s National Library. (2022). Conference: *Localising the Sustainable Development Goals through Baltic museums and libraries*. [https://baltic-museums-libraries-sdg.lnb.lv/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2709-AYM\\_noslegums\\_EN.pdf](https://baltic-museums-libraries-sdg.lnb.lv/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/2709-AYM_noslegums_EN.pdf)

**Keywords** Partnerships, Power of culture; Peace; Resilient communities; Latvia.

## 5.6. Art

### 1. Norway's Future Library

(2014-2114)



Deichman Bjørvika Public Library, Oslo (Norway)

[annebeatehoving@futurelibrary.no](mailto:annebeatehoving@futurelibrary.no)

#### Summary

The Future Library project is a public artwork conceived by Scottish artist Katie Paterson. It consists of collecting one unpublished work by a writer each year from 2014 to 2114. The works are stored in a special room within the Deichman Bjørvika Library in Oslo and will not be read or published until 2114. In addition, 1,000 trees were planted in the Nordmarka Forest to produce the paper on which books will be printed in the future.

#### Target Population

Future generations and contemporary writers.

#### Evaluation

The project has been internationally recognised for its innovative and sustainable approach. The Silent Room, where the works are stored, opened in 2022 and has attracted numerous visitors interested in the initiative.

#### Related SDGs



#### Related bibliography

Wikipedia (n.d.). *Future Library Project*.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future\\_Library\\_project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Future_Library_project)

Goldsmith, R. (2022). Future Library opens secret archive of unseen texts in Oslo.

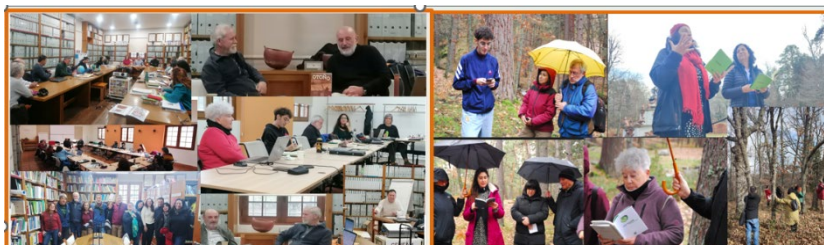
*The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/jun/14/future-library-opens-secret-archive-of-unseen-texts-in-oslo>

#### Keywords

Future; Manuscripts; Sustainability; Public art; Norway.

## 2. Literature and Environment Residency

(2023- )



National Center of Environmental Education (CENEAM), Spain

[rtoril@oapn.es](mailto:rtoril@oapn.es) / [doc.ceneam@oapn.es](mailto:doc.ceneam@oapn.es)

### Summary

The CENEAM offers a workspace, accommodation, and full board for literary creation focused on environmental themes. Each resident will have the opportunity to independently develop their literary project. The CENEAM's Green Library will be available to all participants.

As part of their participation in the Residency, each writer will also prepare an additional text (separate from the main project developed during their stay), which must be submitted within two months. This piece will be included—along with contributions from the other residents—in a digital publication produced by the Autonomous National Parks Agency.

This creative residency is designed to host ten writers for nine days, during which they will work on environmentally-themed literary projects aligned with the mission of the Environmental Education for Sustainability Action Plan.

### Target Population

Nature Writers

### Related SDGs



### Related bibliography

Toril Moreno, R. (2025). *La sostenibilidad a través de la literatura: Residencia de Literatura y Medio Ambiente y Clubes de Lecturas Verdes*. I Congreso Internacional de Lectura y Escritura.

<https://www.alonsoquijano.org/actividades/congreso-lectura-y-escritura>

### Keywords

Nature writing; Literature; Sustainability; Spain.

## 5.7. Advocacy

### 1. Libraries Encourage Activism – Activist Diploma

(2023 - )

Helsinki Metropolitan Area Libraries, Helmet (Finland)

Johanna Juvonen [johanna.a.juvonen@hel.fi](mailto:johanna.a.juvonen@hel.fi)

Tuula Rönkä [tuula.ronka@hel.fi](mailto:tuula.ronka@hel.fi)

Liisa Uimonen [liisa.uimonen@hel.fi](mailto:liisa.uimonen@hel.fi)



#### Summary

In spring 2023, Helmet libraries in Finland launched a campaign: Libraries Encourage Activism! Designed together with Finnish environmental NGOs, the campaign aimed to encourage patrons in environmental action, both in everyday life decisions and collectively, together with others, NGOs, and the library. The campaign was based on a ten-point activist diploma, which functioned as inspiration - what could I and we do to contribute to a better, sustainable future?

With the campaign, they brought libraries' environmental work closer to their democracy work. Strengthening agency of city residents in environmental matters was key. The campaign aimed to increase understanding of everyone's potential for influence in environmental issues and protection, to promote social and cultural dialogue about the eco-crisis, to encourage joint action, and to enhance access to information, stories and learning in a way that would also support eco-social education and environmental literacy.

#### Target Population

Helmet-area residents.

#### Related SDGs



#### Awards and Recognitions

The Activist diploma was picked as a goal for the Helsinki City Library action plan in 2024. There were over 70 events related to environmental sustainability, with more than 2,000 participants.

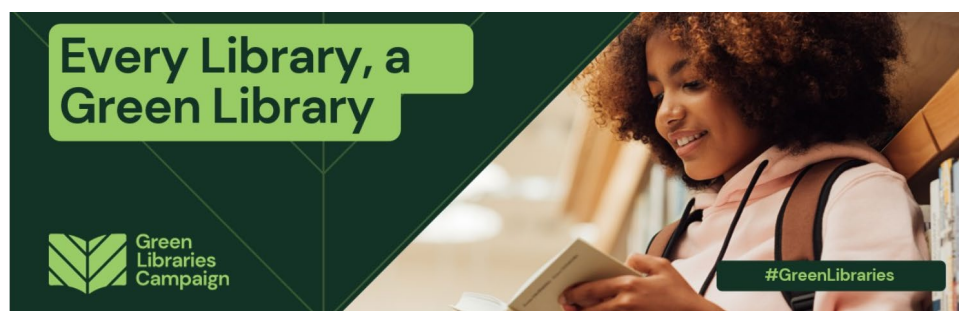
#### Keywords

Environmental activism; Community engagement; Sustainability education; Environmental literacy; Democratic Participation; Finland.



## 2. Green Libraries Campaign

(2020 - )



CILIP: the library and information association (London, United Kingdom)

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/general/?type=CONTACT>

### Summary

The Green Libraries Campaign is a UK-wide, cross-sector programme focused on the contribution of librarians and information and knowledge professionals to the sustainability agenda. The campaign includes guides, workshops, resources, and a community to support green action in libraries.

Hundreds of libraries have signed the Manifesto, the partnership secured a first round of funding that supported 15 libraries across England to take environmental action, the Green Libraries Conference in 2023 and 2024 were a sell-out success, and the annual Green Libraries Week turns hundreds of libraries green in October every year.

### Target Population

Librarians, information and knowledge professionals, library institutions, and users interested in environmental sustainability in the library sector.

### Evaluation

The campaign has received positive feedback from librarians and has influenced several libraries to adopt sustainable policies and practices, although no formal quantitative impact report is publicly available.

### Related SDGs



### Awards and recognitions

No specific awards have been recorded for the Green Libraries Campaign, although CILIP as an institution has received various professional recognitions.

### Related Bibliography



CILIP. (2022). *Green Libraries Manifesto: working together for people and planet*.  
<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesManifesto>

CILIP (2022). *Green Libraries Survey Case Studies 2022*.  
<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesResources>

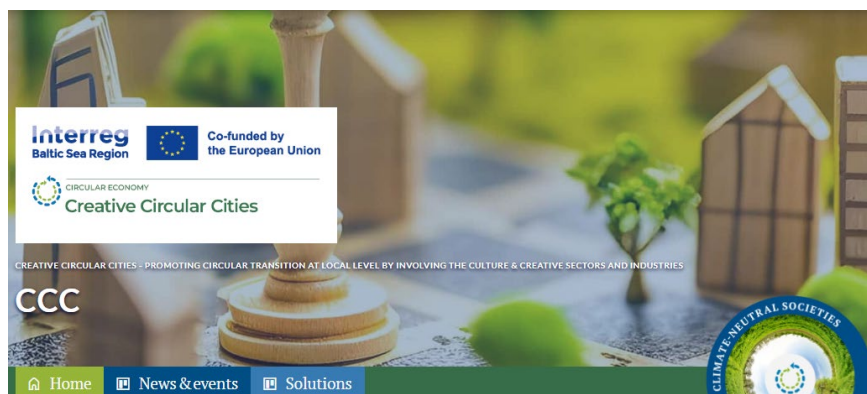
**Keywords**

Sustainability; Green libraries; Ecology; Climate change;  
Environmental management; Libraries; CILIP; Social responsibility;  
Responsible consumption; United Kingdom.

## 5.8. Community involvement

### 1. Project “Creative Circular Cities – Promoting circular transition at local level by involving the Culture & Creative Sectors and Industries”

(2023 - )



Riga Energy Agency (REA) / Bolderāja Branch Library of the Riga Central Library (Latvia)

Ieva Kalniņa, Project Manager , Riga Energy Agency, [kalnina.ieva@riga.lv](mailto:kalnina.ieva@riga.lv)

#### Summary

The Creative Circular Cities project focuses on the integration of Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSIs) into the circular economy transition at the municipal level. It aims to develop guidelines and tools that municipalities, business support organisations and NGOs can use to implement circular economy solutions.

The Bolderāja branch library of the Riga Central Library is implementing the “Creative Circular Cities – Promoting circular transition at local level by involving the Culture & Creative Sectors and Industries” project from 2023 to 2026, which is funded by both the INTERREG BJR program and the Riga City Council. One of the project features is cooperation with residents, within the framework of which various educational events have taken place. It also involves a competition of residents' ideas and the planned creation of a circular cultural space in the garden of the renovated Bolderāja branch library of the Riga Central Library. The plan for the cultural space is set out so that not only should its technical solutions comply with the principles of the circular economy and the New European Bauhaus (quality and aesthetics, sustainability, inclusion), but it should also carry a message about the circular economy and a sustainable lifestyle in everyday life. If everything goes as planned, the garden in its new form will be opened in October 2025.

#### Target Population

Mainly residents of Bolderāja.

**Related  
SDGs**



**Keywords** Circular economy; Library garden; Community involvement; Latvia.

## 2. Floating Green

(2023 - )

Stadtbibliothek Köln (Germany)

[stadtbibliothek@stadt-koeln.de](mailto:stadtbibliothek@stadt-koeln.de)



### **Summary**

Floating Green is a mobile pop-up initiative by Stadtbibliothek Köln that brings sustainability education directly to local communities. It operates as a flexible, modular space that rotates between various library branches and public events every 2-3 months.

The project offers interactive programming on topics such as sustainable nutrition, renewable energy, circular economy, and eco-friendly lifestyles. Key features include workshops, seed libraries, upcycling activities, and partnerships with local environmental organisations.

The project is designed to engage all age groups and connect citizens with sustainability experts in their neighbourhoods.

**Target  
Population**

Residents of Cologne, including children, students, families, and seniors. The project aims to reach diverse communities across the city by rotating through different library branches and public events.

**Evaluation**

Floating Green has been recognised for its innovative approach to sustainability education and community engagement. It serves as a model for libraries seeking to integrate environmental awareness into their programming and to foster connections between citizens and local sustainability initiatives.

#### Related SDGs



#### Related Bibliography

Vogt, H. (2024). Floating Green – nachhaltig leben: ein mobiler Pop-up-Space der Stadtbibliothek Köln. *BuB – Forum Bibliothek und Information*, 386-387. [https://zs.thulb.uni-jena.de/servlets/MCRFileNodeServlet/jportal\\_derivate\\_00354028/BUB\\_2024\\_07\\_386\\_387.pdf](https://zs.thulb.uni-jena.de/servlets/MCRFileNodeServlet/jportal_derivate_00354028/BUB_2024_07_386_387.pdf)

**Keywords** Green libraries; Mobile libraries; Environmental awareness, Sustainability; Cooperation; Networks; Germany.

### 3. SUBstainability: Student sustainability ideas competition

(2025 - )

Göttingen State and University Library (SUB  
Göttingen)

[ag-nh@sub.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:ag-nh@sub.uni-goettingen.de)



#### Summary

As a central facility of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen/Göttingen University and of the German state of Lower Saxony, the SUB Göttingen is one of the largest academic libraries in Germany. The SUB Göttingen's library has established a Sustainability Working Group that has developed a sustainability policy and implements sustainability projects such as waste separation systems, care for bees, reuse of technical devices, and support for an in-house private seed library. In the latest competition "SUBstainability", they asked students to send in ideas on how to improve the library's sustainability. All participants received a certificate and the winner's idea was implemented.

Out of several ideas that were proposed, the suggestion to install a bicycle repair station won the competition. The Stiftung WissenWecken supported the implementation of the selected ideas with a total budget of 2,000 euros in 2025. The library is currently negotiating the details on how to best install the repair station, so that it is safe, easy to access, and simple to use.

**Target Population** Students and staff of the university, and anyone who uses the campus and library.

**Evaluation** The sustainability policy is evaluated once a year and all our projects are reviewed as part of that evaluation.

**Budget** €2,000.

**Related  
SDGs**



### Related Bibliography

SUB Göttingen Sustainability Working Group. (s.d.). Records in Zenodo.  
[https://zenodo.org/communities/subgoe\\_sustainability/records?q=&l=list&p=1&s=10&sort=newest](https://zenodo.org/communities/subgoe_sustainability/records?q=&l=list&p=1&s=10&sort=newest)

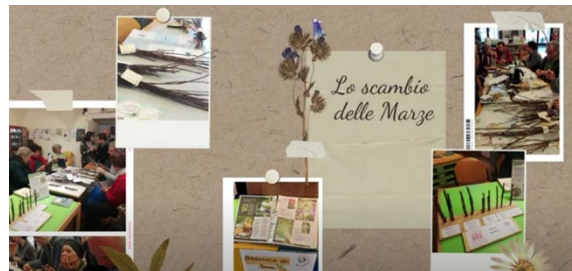
**Keywords** SUB Göttingen; Academic libraries; Sustainability working group; Competitions; Students; Bicycle repair station; SDG 12; Germany.

## 4 The Seed Library

(2018 - )

Biblioteca Civica Villa Valle, Italy

[biblioteca@comune.valdagno.vi.it](mailto:biblioteca@comune.valdagno.vi.it)



### Summary

The Seed Library promotes seed lending and biodiversity by allowing users to borrow up to three seed packets per planting season, and to return seeds grown organically. Since its launch in 2018, the project has grown to include around 135 varieties and roughly 150 loans per year. It engages the community through courses, workshops and local excursions, fostering sustainability, environmental protection, and active citizenship.

**Target  
Population** Local citizens, volunteers, gardening enthusiasts, schools, and families in Valdagno and surrounding areas.

**Related  
SDGs**



### Awards and Recognitions

2nd Place, Best Green Library Project — IFLA Green Library Award 2023

### Related Bibliography

Biblioteca villa valle. (2024). *La Biblioteca dei Semi (Valdagno, Italia)* [video].  
<https://youtu.be/iwpEB61UN9Y?si=xob6uhPnJxV-GoAh>

**Keywords** Seed preservation; Biodiversity; Community engagement; Sustainability; IFLA award; Italy.

## 5. Kranj City Library

(2010 - )

Kranj, Slovenia

[mkk@mkk.si](mailto:mkk@mkk.si)



### Summary

Kranj City Library has implemented multiple actions focused on environmental and social sustainability, including energy optimisation in its facilities, responsible resource use, promotion of sustainable mobility, and educational programmes on environmental topics for the community. The library also plays an active role in citizen science projects, involving local residents in data collection, research, and collaborative problem-solving on environmental issues.

**Target Population** Library users, the Kranj community, students, teachers, visitors interested in sustainability, and citizens participating in science initiatives.

**Evaluation** Positive impact measured through reduced energy consumption, increased environmental awareness activities, citizen participation in scientific research, and strong community engagement.

### Related SDGs



**Keywords** Green libraries; Energy efficiency; Green mobility; Environmental education; Citizen science; Local community; Slovenia.

## 5.9. Environmental Education / Rural Communities

### 1. Agro-Library: from consuming society to producing society

(2022-2024 )

Uşak Banaz Public Library, Türkiye

[kutuphane6404@ktb.gov.tr](mailto:kutuphane6404@ktb.gov.tr)



#### Summary

As Türkiye's first Agro-Library, Banaz Public Library integrates sustainable agricultural education into library services. It offers programmes on climate-smart farming, seed preservation, organic farming, seasonal diet and the ecological cycle. It serves as a hybrid space combining education, production, and ecological awareness in rural Türkiye. It was restructured in 2022 and was active with 220+ agro-themed events in 2024.

**Target Population** Children, Rural communities, farmers, young agricultural entrepreneurs

**Evaluation** It reached 9,300+ users in one year and empowers rural sustainability and digital agricultural literacy.

#### Related SDGs



#### Awards and recognitions

Shortlisted – IFLA Green Library Award 2024

#### Related Bibliography

Agro-Library (2023) *What is a green library?* [poster]. IFLA/ENSULIB.

[https://www.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/Agro\\_Library\\_Green\\_Library\\_Poster\\_21112023\\_English.pdf](https://www.ifla.org/wp-content/uploads/Agro_Library_Green_Library_Poster_21112023_English.pdf)

**Keywords** Agro-literacy; Rural development; Seed preservation; Climate-smart farming; Women's empowerment; Turkey.



## 2. Green Reading Clubs

(2021 - )

Spanish Network of Environmental  
Information and Documentation  
Centres (RECIDA) Spain

[rtoril@oapn.es](mailto:rtoril@oapn.es)



### Summary

In 2021, the Reading Clubs activity began in RECIDA, which aims to bring green readings with environmental content closer to citizens.

By sharing resources and experiences, they hope to encourage the launching of reading clubs, both in the RECIDA centres and in any other entity that wants to use said green readings. With this objective, a Working Group has been formed that meets in-person and virtually at the Network's annual seminars.

The sets of books are provided by centres that are part of RECIDA. These sets are located in the National Center of Environmental Education (CENEAM), which is responsible for sending them to the requesting centers.

Up to now, two meetings of the Green Reading Clubs have been organized.

### Target Population

Although initially the RECIDA Reading Club was created to be held in the centres that are part of the Network, the loan of the lots is open to all types of public or private entities, educational centers, associations and other groups interested in launching a green book club.

### Evaluation

Participants are very satisfied with their involvement in these clubs and demonstrate that their knowledge and attitudes have improved in both environmental and social aspects. The meetings have also been very well received.

### Related SDGs



### Related Bibliography

Medel, K. & Muñoz M. (2021). *Clubes de lectura en centros de información y documentación ambiental*. XX Seminar of Environmental Documentation Centers and Protected Natural Areas.

[https://www.miteco.gob.es/content/dam/miteco/es/ceneam/centro-de-documentacion-ceneam/munoz\\_margamedel\\_karen\\_clubesdelectura2021\\_tcm30-533682.pdf](https://www.miteco.gob.es/content/dam/miteco/es/ceneam/centro-de-documentacion-ceneam/munoz_margamedel_karen_clubesdelectura2021_tcm30-533682.pdf)

Página dos. (2025). *Manuel Rivas* [video]. RTVE. Min. 00:08:30.  
<https://play.rtve.es/v/16412538/>

Pardo Cereijo, A.B. (2022). Conectar con la naturaleza a través de la lectura: experiencias inspiradoras en bibliotecas y otros agentes culturales. *Clip de SEDIC. Revista de la Sociedad Española de Documentación e Información Científica*, (86). <https://doi.org/10.47251/clip.n86.92>

Santos, I. & Serrano, F. (2020). *Ecoclub de lectura: La novela como herramienta para la concienciación, sensibilización y educación ambiental*. XIX Seminar of Environmental Documentation Centers and Protected Natural Areas. [https://www.miteco.gob.es/content/dam/miteco/es/ceneam/centro-de-documentacion-ceneam/11santos-ecoclub\\_tcm30-516160.pdf](https://www.miteco.gob.es/content/dam/miteco/es/ceneam/centro-de-documentacion-ceneam/11santos-ecoclub_tcm30-516160.pdf)

**Keywords** Reading club; Environmental education; Literature; Spain.

### 3. La Canopée–La Fontaine Library

(2016 - )

La Canopée (Paris,  
France)



[Mediatheque.canpoe@paris.fr](mailto:Mediatheque.canpoe@paris.fr)

#### **Summary**

It is a public library located in the heart of Paris (Forum des Halles), designed as a model of ecological responsibility. It integrates sustainable practices in operations, programming, and logistics.

**Target Population** General public, with a focus on young people, urban cultures, deaf and hard-of-hearing users, and vulnerable communities.

**Evaluation** Recognised as a pilot sustainable library by IFLA. It carries out internal reporting on environmental impact and continuous improvement of sustainable policies.

#### **Related SDGs**



#### **Awards and recognitions**

2022 IFLA Green Library Award.

### Related Bibliography

Iltnere, A. (2022). "We have a wonderful job!" The best Green Library project in Paris. Sea Library. <https://beachbooks.blog/2022/12/04/12086/>

Médiathèque de la Canopée. (2021). *The green library guide*.  
<https://bibliothequecanopee.files.wordpress.com/2021/10/the-green-library-guide.pdf>

Médiathèque de la Canopée de la Fontaine. (2024). *Retour d'expérience de la médiathèque de la Canopée sur sa démarche verte*.  
[https://www.bib92.org/images/Bibliotheques-Fichiers/BibliothequesVertes/Retour\\_dexperience\\_de\\_la\\_Mediatheque\\_de\\_la\\_Canopee\\_sur\\_sa\\_demarche\\_verte.pdf](https://www.bib92.org/images/Bibliotheques-Fichiers/BibliothequesVertes/Retour_dexperience_de_la_Mediatheque_de_la_Canopee_sur_sa_demarche_verte.pdf)

**Keywords** Green libraries; Sustainability; Urban culture; Community outreach; Eco-responsibility; Seed preservation; Circular economy; France.

## 4. Green Library: seeking green heroes and answers to the ecological challenge

(2019 - )

Kyiv Library at Priorka for Children in partnership with Library Country Charitable Foundation (Kyiv, Ukraine)

Ms. Lyusyena Shum  
[lyusyena.shum@gmail.com](mailto:lyusyena.shum@gmail.com)



### Summary

The Children's Library in Priorka (Kyiv), in partnership with the Library Country Charitable Foundation, has launched this project. The initiative aims to foster ecological awareness and culture among children and youth through creative and educational activities.

This project is a vivid example of how even a small library can become a powerful hub for environmental education by adjusting its focus and scale. It combines learning, creativity, and community engagement while aligning with the UN SDGs. It also demonstrates that Ukrainian grassroots initiatives deserve global recognition.

**Target Population** Children and parents.

**Budget** €1,000 (at the start of the project)

**Evaluation** The Green Library project has achieved significant results. Dozens of children and teenagers regularly attend the eco-library and take part in workshops, while tree-planting initiatives have actively engaged

local residents, parents, educators, and partner organisations. The library has become a hub for raising environmental awareness, where children and their families learn about waste sorting, conscious consumption, and respect for nature. Artistic expression plays a key role, with children creating eco-posters, installations, and artworks that have featured in exhibitions and public campaigns. As part of the "Oak Crossing\_UA" initiative, oak trees - symbols of resilience and hope - along with other species were planted in public spaces across the district. The driving force behind all of this is a deep commitment to the future of their children and their nation, because cultivating an environmental culture and an eco-friendly way of life is essential to building a sustainable future.

### Related SDGs



### Awards and recognitions

In 2024, second place in the "Best Green Library Project" IFLA Green Library Award.

### Related Bibliography

Кацімон, О. (2024). Бібліотека на Приорці в Києві здобула нагороду на міжнародному конкурсі IFLA Green Library Award 2024. *Detector*. <https://cs.detector.media/blogs/texts/186314/2024-10-19-biblioteka-na-priortsi-v-kyievi-zdobula-nagorodu-na-mizhnarodnomu-konkursi-ifla-green-library-award-2024/?utm>

Кобець, Г. (2019). *Жити в стилі «еко» вчить бібліотека на Приорці в Києві*. Український кур'єр. <https://ukurier.gov.ua/uk/news/zhiti-v-stili-eko-vchit-biblioteka-na-priorci-v-ki/>

Опубліковано. (2025). *Тиждень натхнення та свідомості: екологія і мистецтво у бібліотеці на Приорці*. <https://obolon.kyivcity.gov.ua/news/tyzhden-natkhennia-ta-svidomosti-ekolohiia-i-mystetstvo-u-bibliotetsi-na-priortsi>

**Keywords** Ukraine; Environmental projects; Environmental education; Eco-heroes.

## 5. EcoLeoteka

(2016 - )

Lviv Regional Children's Library  
(Ukraine)

[biblioteka@lodb.org.ua](mailto:biblioteka@lodb.org.ua)



### Summary

The project aims to foster ecological culture among children, teaching them to sort waste and inspire their parents to do the same. Librarians tested and shared new environmental practices across the Lviv region and Ukraine, and in 2021 the library joined the international Seed Library initiative. Activities included playful learning through the Garbage Hero computer game, creating eco-promotional materials, organising waste collection drives, workshops using recycled materials, eco-excursions, and sharing eco-news, posters, and activities to promote environmental awareness in the community.

### Target Population

Children aged 7-12, teenagers, teachers and librarians.

### Budget

€300 (at the start of the project in 2016) and €250 annually from the library budget, plus books, materials, stationery, and other resources from sponsors for the duration of the project.

### Evaluation

Ukraine is in the process of joining the EU, where there are stringent laws on waste collection and recycling. It is extremely important, in an accessible way, to explain to children the essence of ecological culture. Therefore, environmental education became the main mission of the library.

### Related SDGs



### Awards and recognitions

2016 - Victory in the competition of the British Council programme "Active Citizens in Ukraine"

2017 - Top five in the global competition "[Green Library 2017](#)" [IFLA Green Library Award](#)

2019 - The project is featured on the [IFLA Library World Map](#) with a story about the role of libraries in implementing the UN SDGs.

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**Keywords** Ukraine; Environmental projects; Environmental education.





*Presto*

## Movement IV: Readings to Improve the Performance

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## **Bonus Tracks: The Green Librarian Playlist**

Whether you are looking for background music as you read this handbook, or searching for songs to use in your library's sustainability-themed activities, we have prepared a curated selection just for you.

"The Green Librarian Playlist" is a mix of tracks that reflect themes of nature, climate change, or environmental awareness. These 258 minutes of music are selected to inspire, engage, and spark reflection, both inside and outside the library space. You can access the playlist by scanning the Spotify code below.

We have created the [playlist on Spotify](#), but for those without a Spotify account, we have also included a full list of the songs below, complete with relevant details and thematic tags, so you can explore them in any way you prefer.



The Green Librarian Handbook  
**Bonus Tracks: The Green Librarian Playlist**

Artist	Title	Album	Year	Topics	Message Summary	Youtube Link
ANOHI	4 Degrees	Hopelessness	2016	Climate change	An unsettling confession of complicity in climate destruction, daring listeners to face the truth.	<a href="#">link</a>
Aretha Franklin	Respect	I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You	1967	Social	A timeless demand for respect and equal treatment, amplifying women's voices.	<a href="#">link</a>
Aurora	Exhale, inhale	The Gods We Can Touch	2022	Pollution, Nature	A breath by breath reminder to find calm and reconnection in a stressed, polluted world.	<a href="#">link</a>
Aurora	The Seed	A Different Kind of Human (Step 2)	2019	Pollution, Nature	A folk pop warning that you cannot eat money—nature's balance must be protected to survive.	<a href="#">link</a>
Beyoncé	Freedom	Lemonade	2016	Social	A thunderous call to break cycles of racial and gender oppression and reclaim dignity.	<a href="#">link</a>
Billie Eilish	All the Good Girls Go to Hell	When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?	2019	Environmental	A dark, ironic parable of the climate crisis where human indifference fuels ecological ruin.	<a href="#">link</a>
Billie Holiday	Strange Fruit	Single	1939	Social	A haunting protest against racist lynching that confronts America's darkest violence.	<a href="#">link</a>
Billy Joel	Allentown	The Nylon Curtain	1982	Economic	An elegy to a deindustrialising town and the workers left behind when factories close.	<a href="#">link</a>
Billy Strings	Watch It Fall	Home	2019	Climate change	Bluegrass storytelling about environmental loss and communities watching change unfold.	<a href="#">link</a>
Bob Dylan	Blowin' in the Wind	The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan	1963	Social	A cascade of questions about war, freedom and justice that challenge moral complacency.	<a href="#">link</a>



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Artist	Title	Album	Year	Topics	Message Summary	Youtube Link
Bob Dylan	Workingman's Blues #2	Modern Times	2006	Economic	A weary hymn about the dignity of labour amid globalisation and economic decline.	<a href="#">link</a>
Bob Marley	Get Up, Stand Up	Burnin'	1973	Economic / Social	A reggae rallying cry to claim rights and resist oppression.	<a href="#">link</a>
Bruce Hornsby and the Range	The Way It Is	The Way It Is	1986	Economic / Social	A piano-driven reminder that prejudice and inequality persist beneath polite surfaces.	<a href="#">link</a>
Bruce Springsteen	The Ghost of Tom Joad	The Ghost of Tom Joad	1995	Economic	A modern Dust Bowl journey through poverty, migration and the brittle American Dream.	<a href="#">link</a>
Childish Gambino	This Is America	Single	2018	Social	A sharp critique of gun violence, spectacle and the normalisation of racial trauma.	<a href="#">link</a>
Coldplay	Don't Panic	Parachutes	2000	Environmental	An understated reminder to find hope while acknowledging the fragility of our world.	<a href="#">link</a>
Counting Crows	Big Yellow Taxi	Hard Candy	2002	Rural world, Deforestation	A modern cover mourning paved paradise and the cost of careless development.	<a href="#">link</a>
Dolly Parton	9 to 5	9 to 5 and Odd Jobs	1980	Economic	A catchy takedown of workplace exploitation, pay gaps and everyday struggles of workers.	<a href="#">link</a>
Donald Glover	Feels Like Summer	3.15.20	2018	Global warming	A mellow reflection on warming summers that hide anxiety about climate change.	<a href="#">link</a>
Elvis Presley	In the Ghetto	From Elvis in Memphis	1969	Social justice	A tragic loop of urban poverty and violence that society refuses to break.	<a href="#">link</a>
Fleet Foxes	Blue Ridge Mountains	Fleet Foxes	2008	Environment	Pastoral imagery exploring the notion of family and our bond with the natural world.	<a href="#">link</a>

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Artist	Title	Album	Year	Topics	Message Summary	Youtube Link
Fleetwood Mac	World Turning	Fleetwood Mac	1975	Economic	A rootsy reflection on change, agency and the balance between work and life.	<a href="#">link</a>
Gil Scott-Heron	The Revolution Will Not Be Televised	Pieces of a Man	1971	Economic / Social	A spoken word manifesto that rejects passive media and calls for real world action.	<a href="#">link</a>
Green Day	Working Class Hero	Instant Karma	2007	Economic / Social	A stark, biting critique of social conditioning and class oppression (a cover of John Lennon).	<a href="#">link</a>
Jack Johnson	The 3 R's	Sing-A-Longs and Lullabies	2006	Environmental	A playful, educational tune teaching kids, and adults, to reduce, reuse and recycle in daily life.	<a href="#">link</a>
Janis Ian	At Seventeen	Between the Lines	1975	Economic / Social	A tender confession about beauty standards, exclusion and the costs of conformity.	<a href="#">link</a>
John Lennon	Imagine	Imagine	1971	Social	A utopian vision of a borderless, peaceful world free from greed and division.	<a href="#">link</a>
Joni Mitchell	Big Yellow Taxi	Ladies of the Canyon	1970	Environmental	A witty protest against paving over nature and replacing living landscapes with car parks and hotels.	<a href="#">link</a>
KT Tunstall	The Hidden Heart	The Scarlet Tulip	2011	Forests	A hushed ode to forests and the quiet resilience beating within wild places.	<a href="#">link</a>
Kendrick Lamar	Alright	To Pimp a Butterfly	2015	Social	A resilient promise of survival and hope amid systemic racism and violence.	<a href="#">link</a>
Lady Gaga	Born This Way	Born This Way	2011	Social	An empowerment anthem celebrating LGBTQ+ pride, self acceptance and equality.	<a href="#">link</a>
Leonard Cohen	Everybody Knows	I'm Your Man	1988	Economic / Social	A wry, world weary inventory of corruption, inequality and moral fatigue.	<a href="#">link</a>

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**Bonus Tracks: The Green Librarian Playlist**

Artist	Title	Album	Year	Topics	Message Summary	Youtube Link
Lorde	Royals	Pure Heroine	2013	Economic	A minimalist critique of luxury culture and the myths of wealth and status.	<a href="#">link</a>
Louis Armstrong	What a Wonderful World	Single	1967	Environmental	A gentle ode to everyday beauty that invites listeners to cherish and safeguard the world around us.	<a href="#">link</a>
Macklemore & Ryan Lewis	Wings	The Heist	2012	Economic	A critique of consumerism and marketing that sells identity and dreams to kids.	<a href="#">link</a>
Manu Chao	Clandestino	Clandestino	1998	Economic / Social	A humane portrait of migrants navigating borders, surveillance and economic precarity.	<a href="#">link</a>
Marina	Purge the Poison	Ancient Dreams in a Modern Land	2021	Climate change	Satirical song taking aim at exploitation, patriarchy and ecological decay.	<a href="#">link</a>
Marvin Gaye	Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology)	What's Going On	1971	Environmental	A soulful lament about pollution, oil spills and the toll of modern industry on human health and the environment.	<a href="#">link</a>
Michael Jackson	Earth Song	HIStory: Past, Present and Future, Book I	1995	Environmental	A sweeping plea for the planet that mourns war, animal suffering and deforestation, urging collective responsibility for Earth.	<a href="#">link</a>
Midnight Oil	Beds Are Burning	Diesel and Dust	1987	Environmental / Social	A rock anthem demanding land justice and acknowledging the rights of Indigenous communities.	<a href="#">link</a>
Miley Cyrus	Wake Up America	Breakout	2008	Climate change	An appeal to recognise environmental problems and change habits at home.	<a href="#">link</a>
Missy Higgins	How Was I To Know	Solastalgia	2018	Human impact	Personal reflection on unintended harm and responsibility for the planet.	<a href="#">link</a>

The Green Librarian Handbook  
**Bonus Tracks: The Green Librarian Playlist**

Artist	Title	Album	Year	Topics	Message Summary	Youtube Link
Missy Higgins	Starting Again	Solastalgia	2018	Planet earth	Songs of eco-grief and renewal, searching for footing in a warming world.	<a href="#">link</a>
Muse	The 2nd Law: Unsustainable	The 2nd Law	2012	Environmental	A bombastic warning that infinite growth and fossil dependence are physically impossible.	<a href="#">link</a>
Nahko and Medicine for the People	Aloha Ke Akua	Dark as Night	2013	Environment, Planet earth	A spiritual celebration of interconnection between people, Earth and the sacred.	<a href="#">link</a>
Neil Young	After the Gold Rush	After the Gold Rush	1970	Environmental	A dreamlike meditation on environmental decline and a future where nature has been traded away.	<a href="#">link</a>
Nina Simone	I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free	Silk & Soul	1967	Social	A soaring declaration of the right to freedom and self determination.	<a href="#">link</a>
One Republic	Truth to Power	An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power	2017	Climate change	An urgent climate message about speaking up before it is too late.	<a href="#">link</a>
Paloma Faith	The Architect	The Architect	2017	Planet earth	A plea for compassionate systems built around people and the planet, not profit.	<a href="#">link</a>
Paul McCartney	Despite Repeated Warnings	Egypt Station	2018	Climate change	A metaphorical climate warning about leaders steering us towards disaster.	<a href="#">link</a>
Pearl Jam	Do the Evolution	Yield	1998	Environmental	An animated critique of human arrogance, showing technology and conquest turning against the natural world.	<a href="#">link</a>
Pink Floyd	Money	The Dark Side of the Moon	1973	Economic	A sardonic portrait of greed and the distortions wealth creates in society.	<a href="#">link</a>

The Green Librarian Handbook  
**Bonus Tracks: The Green Librarian Playlist**

Artist	Title	Album	Year	Topics	Message Summary	Youtube Link
Playing for Change	Stand by Me	Songs Around the World	2009	Solidarity	A global, street-recorded rendition that models solidarity across borders.	<a href="#">link</a>
Public Enemy	Fight the Power	Fear of a Black Planet	1990	Social	A defiant anthem confronting systemic racism and demanding cultural and political change.	<a href="#">link</a>
RAYE	Environmental Anxiety	My 21st Century Blues	2023	Eco-anxiety	A candid pop confessional about eco anxiety in a world on edge.	<a href="#">link</a>
Radiohead	Idioteque	Kid A	2000	Environmental	Anxious, apocalyptic imagery about collapse and climate chaos, mirroring social panic in a warming world.	<a href="#">link</a>
Rage Against the Machine	Sleep Now in the Fire	The Battle of Los Angeles	1999	Economic / Social	A furious indictment of corporate power, imperialism and predatory capitalism.	<a href="#">link</a>
Róisín Murphy	Dear Miami	Overpowered	2007	Climate change	A stylish song foretelling sea level rise and the fragility of coastal glamour.	<a href="#">link</a>
Sam Cooke	A Change Is Gonna Come	Ain't That Good News	1964	Social	A hopeful civil rights ballad about perseverance through discrimination and hardship.	<a href="#">link</a>
Sara Bareilles	Armor	Amidst the Chaos	2019	Female empowerment , Social justice	A rallying cry for women's voices, solidarity and resilience.	<a href="#">link</a>
Shakira	Try Everything	Zootopia Soundtrack	2016	Social	A pop pep-talk about perseverance and inclusion, and about failing, learning and trying again.	<a href="#">link</a>
Sly & the Family Stone	Everyday People	Stand!	1969	Economic / Social	A joyful plea for equality and inclusion across class, race and creed.	<a href="#">link</a>


The Green Librarian Handbook  
**Bonus Tracks: The Green Librarian Playlist**

Artist	Title	Album	Year	Topics	Message Summary	Youtube Link
Taylor Swift	Clean	1989	2014	Water	Water imagery as emotional detox—starting over after a storm has passed.	<a href="#">link</a>
The 1975 feat. Greta Thunberg	The 1975	Notes on a Conditional Form	2020	Environmental	Focuses on climate change, pollution and the duty to protect ecosystems.	<a href="#">link</a>
The Beatles	Mother Nature's Son	The Beatles	1968	Environment	A pastoral meditation on simplicity and the quiet joy of nature.	<a href="#">link</a>
The Beatles	Taxman	Revolver	1966	Economic	A biting satire of high taxation and the frustrations of the working artist.	<a href="#">link</a>
The Clash	Career Opportunities	The Clash	1977	Economic	A punk blast against youth unemployment, dead-end jobs and social stagnation.	<a href="#">link</a>
The Cranberries	Zombie	No Need to Argue	1994	Social	A raw protest against sectarian violence and the human cost of conflict.	<a href="#">link</a>
Tracy Chapman	Talkin' 'bout a Revolution	Tracy Chapman	1988	Social	An urgent call for social change and economic justice for the overlooked.	<a href="#">link</a>
Tracy Chapman	The Rape of the World	New Beginning	1995	Environmental	A stark indictment of environmental plunder and a call to halt the exploitation of the Earth.	<a href="#">link</a>
Tupac Shakur	Keep Ya Head Up	Strictly 4 My N.I.G.G.A.Z.	1993	Social / Económico	A compassionate message uplifting black women and confronting misogyny and poverty.	<a href="#">link</a>
U2	Pride (In the Name of Love)	The Unforgettable Fire	1984	Social	A tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. that links love, sacrifice and civil rights.	<a href="#">link</a>
U2	Sunday Bloody Sunday	Under a Blood Red Sky	1983	Peace	A martial beat condemning political violence and pleading for peace.	<a href="#">link</a>

**Bonus Tracks: The Green Librarian Playlist**

Artist	Title	Album	Year	Topics	Message Summary	Youtube Link
USA for Africa	We Are the World	We Are the World	1985	Peace	A star-studded call for humanitarian aid and shared responsibility for the vulnerable.	<a href="#">link</a>
Xavier Rudd	Follow the Sun	Spirit Bird	2012	Environmental	A gentle invitation to slow down, breathe and reconnect with the rhythms of nature.	<a href="#">link</a>





## Finale: Acknowledgments and Invitation to Join

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Andrew Cranfield, Majella Cunnane, Sophie Felfoldi and Ines Ferreira from EBLIDA for their valuable feedback, encouragement, and careful supervision throughout the development of this handbook. Their insights and support have greatly contributed to the clarity, depth, and coherence of the final work.

We would like to thank the professional associations and institutions that helped us select best practices from their countries and extend our special thanks to the following individuals: Lyusyena Shum, Sarah Foezon, Merve Yavuzdemir, Kristīne Dekšne, Eva Hackenberg, Amélie Vallotton, Torbjörn Nilsson, Merle Schatz, Tim Schumann, and Petra Hauke.

This publication is not meant to be the end of a process, but the beginning of a shared movement. The Green Librarian Handbook is an invitation to reflect, to act, and to collaborate. Sustainability is not a solo performance. It is a collective composition, one that requires many voices, perspectives, and instruments working in harmony.

We invite you to take part in this symphony of change. Use this handbook as your guide, adapt its ideas to your context, share your own practices, and inspire others. Every action, however small, contributes to a greener, fairer, and more resilient future.



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.