



Green Libraries Manifesto

#GreenLibraries

The impact of the climate and environmental crisis is already being felt globally and locally. It affects us all, but those who are least responsible for the crisis – the most disadvantaged in our communities - are likely to suffer the most.

As libraries we occupy a place at the heart of the communities we serve. Through this manifesto, we want to come together towards a shared vision: to lead by example through our own environmental actions and use our power and reach to inform and inspire people to take positive action and build resilience in the diverse communities we serve.

We recognise the diversity of our sector which is why this is an inclusive initiative for all libraries to help them make the changes they can, with the resources they have.
In signing this manifesto, we agree to:

1

Bring environmental sustainability to the heart of decision-making

We pledge to work towards making environmental thinking and values central to what we do. We will work with decision-makers in our organisations to push for ambitious, credible and publicly communicated environmental commitment and action, aligned with local environmental and climate change ambitions, targets and plans where relevant. Where possible, we will work with others to learn from and share best environmental practice.

2

Innovate and evolve

We will work to evolve environmental practice across core library functions and practices and to test and explore new and innovative approaches and solutions for positive environmental change.

3

Work with our communities

We will learn from and support local green initiatives, and work with them and others to empower our local communities to take positive environmental action. We will provide a safe and open environment for learning, sharing ideas and discussing the climate and environmental crisis and how we can work towards a better future for planet and people. In doing so, we will use creative and innovative approaches to connect with diverse and under-represented groups.

4

Use our voice for more impact

We will use our unique reach and position of trust to share and help people find verified information, to combat climate disinformation, improve climate and environmental literacy and understanding and help develop critical thinking for all ages. By providing up-to-date and accurate information, we will help people navigate the often-complex language and concepts around climate and environmental issues and make better-informed environmental choices.



5

Work in partnership

We will form partnerships with other like-minded organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors to enhance the positive impact of green programmes and initiatives. We will use our spaces and networks to convene groups to discuss and take meaningful action for planet and people.

6

Grow and share our knowledge

We will continually expand our environmental understanding, as individuals, teams and organisations. We will prioritise training and professional development that empowers library staff to take positive action and develop environmentally sustainable practices in their own sphere of work. We will support collective, sector-wide environmental action, including promoting the role of libraries in supporting positive change.

7

Support young people

We will support children and young people to be leaders in a green and just transition and to take action at home, at school, in communities, and in the workplace. We will assist children and young people in advancing environmental debate and ensuring that their voice is heard.

This Manifesto can be used:

- As a set of principles underpinning any local strategies, plans and programmes
- As a development tool in identifying the areas of action and improvement
- To enable conversations with local communities, library staff and key partners, including setting further detail in line with local needs
- To promote library values and aspirations
- As an advocacy document
- To identify likeminded partners and collaborators
- To underpin staff development plans

**To sign the Green Libraries Manifesto, visit
www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibrariesManifesto**

The Green Libraries Manifesto is hosted by CILIP in partnership with Arts Council England, British Library, Libraries Connected and Julie's Bicycle. All UK libraries are warmly invited to sign and share the Green Libraries Manifesto.