

Green Library Subcommittee Planning Document

Recycling and sustainability have been raised in both Steering and Health and Safety Committees, as well as feedback from the START Committee and from the Annual Planning Meeting. As such, a Green Library Subcommittee of the Steering Committee was formed in spring of 2024. In addition to determining the current state of sustainability in the District, the Subcommittee makes recommendations to further the goal of increasing measurable initiatives and outcomes for environmental stewardship. The Subcommittee plans to offer fun and interactive incentives to recognize individuals and groups for their efforts.

A survey was sent to staff and received 21 responses. Below is an overview of the District's current initiatives and the recommendations gathered so far. The Subcommittee welcomes more feedback and recommendations. Please contact members Sherri Baca, Mary Kratz, or Sandy Hudock to provide your ideas.

Current Initiatives

Infrastructure

- ❖ LED Lights: Facilities is replacing lights with LED lights across the district: Rawlings, Lamb, Barkman, Giodone, and Pueblo West completed; Greenhorn Valley is budgeted for 2025, and Lucero in process
- ❖ Automatic light timers are being installed across the District
- ❖ HVAC systems at Rawlings and Barkman are more efficient
- ❖ Solar Panels installed at Rawlings help reduce the carbon footprint regarding energy use. PCCLD subscribed to the Pivot Energy Community Solar Garden and has saved \$73,000 since 2022 while also utilizing energy from sustainable sources. The Pueblo West electric vehicle charger is currently under evaluation with possible upgrades happening in the future. EV chargers for other library locations are being considered—grants are needed for this project to push forward.

Equipment/Consumables

- ❖ IT is willing to recycle toner cartridges and currently sends discarded electronics for recycling
- ❖ Facilities provides green cleaners in Youth Services
- ❖ Staff regularly reuse/repurpose materials for programs

Reducing Use/Recycling Paper

- ❖ HR has a paperless process using eforms; training is done online using Niche Academy
- ❖ Digital Newspapers have substantially cut down on print newspaper delivery while expanding the breadth of area coverage to all branches
- ❖ Staff routinely reuse print marketing materials for scratch paper
- ❖ Some locations are using the Communico Broadcast module as an alternative to paper flyers
- ❖ Finance recycles purged shredded records using Mobile Records Shredders/Shred America Colorado and plans to go to paperless office procedures

- ❖ Recycling shredded paper at all locations is in the upcoming annual budget
- ❖ Programs with a focus on sustainability, e.g. making junk journals, are routinely offered

Recommendations

Infrastructure

- ❖ Xeriscaping using native plants for landscaping; incorporating waterwise practices in landscaping design
- ❖ Determine amount of water used by water feature; (Facilities is gathering data); implement training on sustainable water use
- ❖ Consider hand dryers for staff bathrooms cost: \$1,000 ea.
- ❖ Turn off lights when leaving rooms: District goal to reduce energy consumption
- ❖ Solar panels at Rawlings Library are approaching end of life and have lost efficiency-replacement is currently a discussion happening with Pueblo County government which helped us install those years ago.

Equipment/Consumables

- ❖ Purchase reusable plates, cups and cutlery for programs
- ❖ Purchase recycled/refillable pens <https://powertotheopen.com/pens/b2p-colors/>
- ❖ Consider consolidated ordering (3-6 mos at a time) in order to reduce deliveries and carbon footprint. *Consult Amazon business rep to find out ways to be more sustainable
- ❖ Investigate book recycler used by Books Again for damaged books
- ❖ Consider creating a poly former machine that reuses plastic bottles to make 3D printer filament (possible Friends Grant)
<https://www.yankodesign.com/2023/07/26/make-your-own-3d-printing-filament-using-recycled-plastic-bottles/#:~:text=The%20Polyformer%20is%20a%20clever.and%20extruded%20into%20a%20filament.>

Reducing Use/Recycling Paper

- ❖ Keep searching for viable and affordable recycling options
- ❖ Purchase recycled paper and products
- ❖ Printing multiple pages on one sheet
- ❖ Not printing transfer slips for transit deliveries (let Koha do the work)
- ❖ Get proficient using the Google Suite for efficient sharing of documents, etc.

Other Initiatives

- ❖ Consider community vegetable gardens in raised beds/boxes
- ❖ Staff Day training opportunities to teach sustainability
- ❖ Upcoming Staff Days to be bring your own water bottle (BYOWB) to reduce bottle water use—this will be a practice at upcoming All Staff Development Days

Incentives

- ❖ Swap Meets to trade homegrown produce, puzzles between branches, crafting items for programs, etc.
- ❖ Outstanding group efforts (branch, department level) recognized with plant boxes, gift certificates to buy plants for their location
- ❖ Other Ideas?

Community Recycling

Pueblo Recycle Works 1595 Stockyard Rd. (east of HWY 227) (former Animal Shelter)
For more information call: 719-553-2748

Hours: (May close when windy for safety reasons.)

Thursday & Friday 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm (GATES CLOSE AT 5:45 pm)	Saturday & Sunday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm (GATES CLOSE AT 1:45 pm)
---	--

Takes glass, cardboard, tin & steel cans, plastics 1 & 2 (no caps), plastic bags/wrap, newspapers/magazines, and office paper (sorted).

Tire vouchers:

- Must show a valid ID, or recent utility bill with City address
- Voucher cost is \$1.00 per tire;
 - Limit of **9 PASSENGER-SIZED tires per property address per year**

'Large Item' vouchers may be purchased at 211 E. 'D' Street

- Must show a valid ID, or recent utility bill with City address
- Voucher cost is \$10.00 per item;
- Limit of **8 vouchers per property address per year**
- **Large Items Accepted:** Mattress or Box Spring, Sofa or Couch or Loveseat (sectionals require 2 vouchers), Chair (including recliner), Washer, Dryer, Stove, Refrigerator, or Freezer, Table, or Dresser
- **NO ELECTRONICS (computers, televisions, etc.)**

Pueblo Recycle Guide (2023)

<https://county.pueblo.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/RecyclingGuide2023.pdf>

Home Recycling Monthly Service (Recycling or Trash/Recycling Fee-Based)

Design For Recycle (previously Roots Recycling) <https://www.design4recycle.com/>

2024 DFR RECYCLING GUIDE



PLASTICS we can recycle



PET

Clear and green beverage bottles only. No clam shells, strawberry containers, plastic pie tops etc.



HDPE

Clear and colored bottles/ containers/ jugs can be recycled.



LDPE film

Clean shrink/stretch/cling wrap can be recycled.



PP (polypropylene)

Yogurt/ sour cream containers and bottles can be recycled.

PLASTICS we cannot recycle



#3, #6, #7

Please avoid purchasing these plastics, and when unavoidable, please discard because we cannot responsibly recycle them.

ACCEPTED MATERIALS



PAPER

Office paper, newspaper, magazines, junk mail etc.



CARDBOARD

Corrugated cardboard, brown paper bags, packing paper, cereal boxes etc.



GLASS

Glass jars and bottles of all colors. No windows, mirrors, ceramics, drinking glasses.



METAL

Aluminum and steel cans. No electronics.

- Please place **plastics, paper, and cardboard** in **ORANGE BAG**.
- Please place all **metals** and **glass** in **GREEN BAG**.
- Please bag all shredded paper and paper scraps separately.
- Excess cardboard may be broken down and bundled in larger box or bound.

References

Mishra, Sudhakar. "Greening Libraries for a Sustainable Future: A Comparative Analysis of Green and Traditional Library Practices." *Library Philosophy & Practice*, Jan. 2023, pp. 1–22. EBSCOhost,

research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=8d35ef8e-ced8-38dc-814e-f986023076f1.