

Sustainability in School Libraries

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Sustainability in School Libraries

School Librarians are Special

- School librarians operate inside a larger organization
 - Changes to facilities are often out of their control
 - Purchasing may be centralized at the building or district level
 - Difficult to implement green purchasing program at library level
- School librarians are also certified teachers
 - Can partner with classroom teachers or teach environmental education units independently
 - Often participate in faculty meetings and may sit on school and district-wide committees
 - Are trusted information providers within the school building

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Lead by Example

- Start a faculty/staff environmental committee in your school or join existing one.
- Be the go-to person for environmental information.
- Partner with other teachers to incorporate environmental ed. into the classroom
- Establish a book trading program among faculty & staff. Or start a school-wide used book exchange program for students.
- Consider environmental factors when planning a new library space.
- Do stand-alone environmental ed. programs during scheduled library time.

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Case Study: Millburn Central School

- K-8 school in Wadsworth, IL received BP *A+ for Energy* grant entitled *Let the Sun Shine: Hands-on Solar Energy Activities @ Your Library*
 - Integrated energy activities into the school library media program
 - School librarian combined story time and projects to teach students:
 - The power of the sun (kindergarten),
 - How to measure solar energy (first grade),
 - Harnessing the power of the sun to generate electricity for the home (second grade) and to power cars (third grade).
 - Students demonstrated their projects at “Days in the Sun” family activity programs in the school library courtyard.



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For More Information

Green Libraries LibGuide

<http://uiuc.libguides.com/green-libraries>

Includes information specific to school libraries.

Environmental Education LibGuide

<http://uiuc.libguides.com/environmental-education>

Environmental Novels: An Annotated Bibliography

<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/696>

Lists novels for teens and adults with environmental themes

Environmental News Bits

<http://envnewsbits.wordpress.com>

Includes Education, Libraries, and Publications categories.