

University of Massachusetts Amherst

From the Selected Works of Madeleine K. Charney

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A Sustainability Librarian's Manifesto: Your "Take Action" Checklist

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/charney_madeleine/55/

A Sustainability Librarian's Manifesto

Our society is at a profound turning point. There is a creeping realization that our environment is at risk, our economy has been hobbled by misguided strategies and while “social networking” is on the rise, many of us yearn for more meaningful encounters with live human beings in our communities.

Sustainability-minded librarians have much to say about how to rebuild our world with more resilience, inclusivity and integrity. We are natural systems thinkers. We are bridge builders. We are adept at gathering, synthesizing and disseminating information. We are born organizers!

My concern, my passion, is to help bring sustainability-minded librarians of every ilk to the table -- in academia, in our public communities and at our children's schools.

Many of us are already acting as change agents in our personal and professional realms. We must each do our part to prevent “the library” from becoming an afterthought in the sustainability movement. Step up, connect to the key players, ask questions. Be bold!

The following “Take Action” checklist provides concrete ideas for helping move sustainability efforts forward. Though the list has an academic bent, the suggestions can be applied to public and school library efforts as well.

Looking forward,

Madeleine Charney

June 12, 2012

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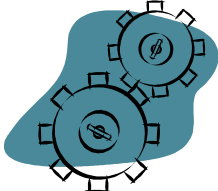
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Librarians and Sustainability

Your “Take Action” Checklist

Your Institution	Did your President sign the <i>American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment</i> ?	Yes No Not sure	Suggest he/she join the 677 other signatories to date http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/signatories
Your Institution	Is your institution a member of AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education)? STARS participant?	Yes No Not sure Yes No Not sure	Request membership. Members can also “Create an Account” and access the archives http://www.aashe.org/membership/member-directory FYI, there’s a library component in the works! https://stars.aashe.org/
Your Institution	Is a Sustainability Officer/Manager on staff?	Yes No Not sure	Check your institution’s home page, People Finder, HR department, etc. Introduce yourself; set up a meeting ☺
Your Institution	Has a “Sustainability Council” been implemented?	Yes No Not sure	Check your institution’s home page, etc. Inquire about participating
Your Institution	Is there a regular sustainability publication?	Yes No Not sure	Check your institution’s home page, outreach office, etc. Inquire about contributing a library piece or regular column
Your Institution	Will <i>Campus Sustainability Day</i> and/or <i>Earth Day</i> be celebrated?	Yes No Not sure	Campus Sustainability Day – October 24, 2012 Earth Day – April 22, 2013 Host related lectures, films, workshops at the Library; create companion resources
Your Library	Is there a Sustainability Liaison Librarian?	Yes No Not sure	Address this possibility at a library staff meeting

Your Library	Is there an Institutional Repository (administered by the Library)?	Yes No Not sure	Contact potential contributors on campus; create a place(s) for sustainability materials and a bridge between silos
Your Library	Has a Sustainability Fund been set up?	Yes No Not sure	Donors contribute expressly for sustainability-related collections, exhibits, activities, etc. hosted at the Library
Your Library	Does your Library have a “Green Team?”	Yes No Not sure	Raises all library staff and patron awareness of green practices; example: http://www.library.yale.edu/greenteam/good_ideas/
MORE	WAYS	TO	GROW and LEARN: 
Forum	<i>Sustainability Librarians</i> LinkedIn Group	Check it out	Search Groups at www.linkedin.com
Forum	<i>Libraries for Sustainability</i> webinar series	Next one on 6/12, 2-3 pm	Watch the 4/24/12 webinar: https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/launch/play.jnlp?sid=315&psid=2012-04-24.1057.M.669FDEC58C8549C611C2EC64F0EDEC.vcr Note: Runs on Java 6
Forum	<i>Libraries for Sustainability</i> listserv	Forthcoming	Watch for announcements on other lists or contact Madeleine
Opportunity	Attend the 2012 AASHE conference	10/14 thru 10/17 in LA	Submit a proposal for 2013 http://conf2012.aashe.org/
Learn more	<i>Higher Education Sustainability Initiative</i> for Rio+20	International focus	The UN calls on leaders of the international academic community to commit to sustainable institutional practices http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/

Read up	<i>Electronic Green Journal</i>	Semi-annual	Peer-reviewed digital journal providing open access to scholarly, international environmental information since 1994. Published by the UCLA Library http://escholarship.org/uc/uclalib_egj
Read up	<u>Greening Libraries</u>	Forth-coming book	http://libraryjuicepress.com/greeninglibraries.php
Read up	“Librarians as Sustainability Advocates, Educators and Entrepreneurs”	Book chapter	By academic librarians Sarah Dorsey and Beth Filar Williams in <u>The Entrepreneurial Librarian</u> . McFarland, 2012
CONNECT	THROUGH	OUR	ASSOCIATIONS??? 
All libraries	ALA		Reinvigorate or reinvent the Task Force on the Environment (TFOE)? Meet up planned for conference in Anaheim
Academic libraries	ACRL		Start a discussion group?
Higher Ed community	AASHE		Get involved and encourage fellow librarians as well; see AASHE ideas above
Research libraries	ARL		Example: SPEC Kit 312: Public Engagement http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/spec-312-web.pdf
Para-professionals	COLT		Council on Library/Media Technicians
By state	Individual states		Build connections and momentum in your state
By region	ACRL-NE and others		

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