

Libraries and Sustainability – with Peg Seiden 11/10/08

Annotated by Carr Everbach

- 1) General practices
 - a. Purchase Energy Star qualified computers and electronics
 - b. Set electronic devices to energy-saving sleep modes and turn off at night
 - c. Use compact fluorescent lightbulbs
 - d. TriCo van best practices – **twice daily runs, idling to keep warm. Hybrids?**
 - e. Make recycling a priority; bins for various materials; recycle electronic media (**esp. VHS videotapes**)
 - f. High post-consumer content for paper products and unbleached paper (Office Services) – **currently using 30% post-consumer fiber**
 - g. Paper towels vs electric hand-dryers
 - h. Don't give out coffee cups at night; make people bring their own. (**part of larger campus discussion of disposables**)
 - i. Double-sided printing (public and staff computers)
 - j. Look for ways to reduce packaging for ILL such as shipping in bulk or using e-delivery wherever possible; reusing packaging – **sending stuff out ILL (Amanda Bayer asked regarding database of scanned articles, but there are copyright and logistical difficulties with this, so everything is rescanned every time)**
- 2) Resources
 - a. Impact of digital resources; printing...
 - b. Impact of print resources; the largest part of the book publishing's carbon footprint is from First - forest and forest harvest impacts: 62.7%; Second - paper production at the mills: 22.4% share. Conclusion - the paper consumed for the production of books is main responsible for the industry's carbon footprint (12.4 million metric tons or 8.85 lbs. of carbon dioxide per a book, 2006 stats); need to move away from delivering content in print when it is duplicated online... (**idea: study CO2 of printing 100 pages from Blackboard vs book production**)
- 3) Build Green
 - a. Energy audit
 - b. Natural light; occupancy sensors for lighting
 - c. Environmentally friendly finishes (paints and fabrics)
- 4) Preservation and Disaster Planning
 - a. Redundancy in storage is important – **inefficient, but necessary**
 - b. Rise in earth's temperatures hasten degradation of library materials
 - c. Changes in climate may put collections at risk
- 5) Education
 - a. Going Green @ your library – **blog at <http://greeningyourlibrary.wordpress.com/>**
 - b. Environmental Studies subject portal page – **lots of good resources at http://trilogy.brynmawr.edu/guides/Environmental_Studies/**

Meg Spencer has agreed to be the “personal librarian” for the Sustainability Committee. Mike Roswell asked about the library’s plans for the future, and Peg Seiden answered that the library is nearly full, at 85% shelf capacity (maximum allowable). Probably a new addition to the building is likely, promised 10 years ago. Also, see Warren Arborgast podcast in the Chronicle of Higher Education regarding “Green IT.”