



Sustainability Policy

The Gates Public Library (GPL) believes that in order to fulfill our mission, our organization must strive to adopt the “Triple Bottom Line” mindset of sustainability as defined by the American Library Association’s Resolution for the Adoption of Sustainability as a Core Value of Librarianship: “To be truly sustainable an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable.”

VENN DIAGRAM DEPICTING THE DEFINITION OF THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE



Source: Sustainable Thinking: Ensuring Your Library's Future in an Uncertain World [ALA Editions]

Environmentally Sound

GPL is committed to reducing our environmental footprint and promoting environmental conservancy at all levels of the organization. Our goal is to minimize the Library’s impact and maximize future generations’ ability to live, work, and play in our shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources. Library staff and trustees are expected to participate in procedures and programs in our organization that strive to minimize pollution and waste, conserve energy and water, protect habitat, support renewable energy resources, buy environmentally friendly products, and encourage environmentally preferable transportation.

Economically Feasible

GPL is committed to efficient use of the public and private dollars invested in our organization to carry out the mission of the Library. Our objective is to leverage public and private funds to the maximum benefit of the communities we serve, while honoring our commitment to environmental stewardship and equity, diversity, and inclusion. This will be reflected in our fiscal policies. Our purchasing guidelines prioritize energy-efficiency, accessibility, and long-lasting technology.

Socially Equitable

GPL strives to govern the Library in a way that promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion as core values of the institution. The Library is committed to a culture of inclusion and mutual respect that welcomes the differences and variety of backgrounds, perspectives, interests and talents represented by the residents of our community and to recruiting staff, trustees, and volunteers who reflect that community. These efforts will extend to all vendors, including contractor and supplier relationships.

Staff understanding and involvement are essential to the implementation of our sustainability policies. All staff will be provided a copy of this policy and participate in our organization's efforts to create a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable community through its collection, programs, and community services.

Approved by the Board of Trustees: July 23, 2025