



DECLARATION OF SUSTAINABILITY IN THE VILNIUS COUNTY ADOMAS MICKEVICIUS PUBLIC LIBRARY

On the 3rd of January, 2022 Vilnius County Adomas Mickevičius Public Library (further –Library) announced its sustainability declaration (further – Declaration) as an aim of a long-term strategy. Following the principles of declaration library commits itself to spread the values of sustainability among the Librarians' community, readers, visitors, partners, providers, supporters, volunteers and others. Library is following the values of responsibility, partnership, openness and improvement.

Library starts its path towards sustainability by making small steps towards the harmony which comes from itself as well as others.

One of the main priorities of the Sustainable library is environmental commitment and energy consciousness. Library starts with these principles:

1.Principles of Sustainability:

1.1. Maximum commitment;

1.2. Decrease the waste in Library's activities and ensure the responsible waste sorting;

1.3. Educate the competencies of the personnel and responsible attitude to environmental protection;

1.4. Inducing the rational and saving use of water and other resources as well as ensuring the responsible and effective use of energy;

- 1.5. Initiation of educational projects for Library's community – personnel, readers, guests, local communities, regional libraries, youth and children;
- 1.6. Cooperation with other interested parties;
- 1.7. Constant observation, control and communication to personnel, visitors of the Library, local communities and others about the sustainable development goals, the activities organized, goals achieved.

2. Means to accomplish sustainable principles:

- 2.1. The Library seeks to decrease the negative effect to the environment by paying attention to most impacted areas of its services;
- 2.2. Sustainable principles and activities are part of the Library's strategic goals so they are added to the annual plans. The activities and impact of the principles are constantly checked and if necessary new means are suggested;
- 2.3. To ensure the fulfilment of the sustainable development goals in the Library the involvement of the whole community of the library is to be assured.

3. Notes

- 3.1. Sustainability Declaration is affirmed and can be changed by the decision of the Library's director;
- 3.2. Coordinator of the Declaration is responsible for the update of the document;
- 3.3. Everyone from the Library's personnel is responsible for the maintenance of the sustainability principles;
- 3.4. The Material Resources Department is responsible for the maintenance of this Declaration and control of the means;
- 3.5. Library's personnel should be introduced to the sustainability Declaration and everyone should follow the principles.

Declaration is published and available online.

Recommendations (inside rules):

- Avoid printed documents;
- Print on used paper;
- Try to reduce the plastic dishes (for the library's events we avoid using plastic);
- Decline plastic bottles;
- Use your reusable cup/plate;
- Sort waste;
- Save resources – water, electricity;
- When working with the readers always ask whether printed information is necessary;
- Try to avoid printing diplomas and certificates (prepare electronic documents so the possibility for printouts is left);
- Use ecologic cleaning and hygienic products;
- Buy ecological products;
- Digital communication is a priority and printed paperwork should be lessened;
- Congratulate your colleagues with practical presents (honey, jam, plant pot, etc.);
- Follow the sustainability policy of the Library.

Communication with providers, partners:

- Choose the companies associated with the future activities;
- Identify the common values;
- Identify sustainable requirements for the partners;
- Buy local production and services;
- Use electronic agreements and contracts;
- Always evaluate the need to buy new products;
- Check whether it is possible to borrow or rent the things needed;
- Buy products and services that are marked with green ecologic signs (cleaning products, washing products);
- Always consider not the price of the product, but its input for its longevity.

AT THE EVENTS:

- Places to sort waste should be visible (types of waste should be planned in advance);
- Strategically plan the places for food and drinks;
- The venue should be clean before and after the event;
- Do not forget the deposit system for the bottles;
- Avoid the use of disposable cups and plates;
- Avoid the printed material (tickets, leaflets, posters, thank you notes, etc.);
- Use reusable constructions (walls, stands, boards);
- Set up the virtual awards;
- Lessen the number of different packages, avoid mixed packaging which cannot be sorted;
- Seek ways to educate the guests about sustainable development, communicate about the library's sustainable activities and initiatives;
- Present the Library's sustainability declaration in your communication.

ALTERNATIVES:

Disposable cups – should be changed into reusable, recyclable or compostable cups. One may install the cup deposit system.

Laminated paper – use reusable plastic cases, binder sleeves

Packages – communicate with your suppliers and avoid plastic and lessen the amount of packaging

Pins, references, guests name cards – try to reuse them, use erasable markers to write down dates and/or names

Plastic bags – decline the use of plastic bags, offer reusable bags or ask guests to use their bags

Straws, plastic spoons – decline the use of straws and or spoons or use recyclable material.

Drink bottles – decline the use of plastic bottles. Arrange the points to fill water or other drinks to personal bottles and/or cups.

Posters, leaflets – use PET paper instead of PVC. Posters may be available to be reused.

Office supplies – use plastic alternative material.

Medals, diplomas, gratitude – give virtual awards or ones made out of ecologic material.

Cheap little value prizes, presents – look for practical presents, e.g., local sweets.

Balloons and fireworks – should be avoided.