



IFLA Section
**Environment,
Sustainability and Libraries**

Tools for Green Libraries



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Coordination of this project in collaboration with Committee Members of Ensulib-IFLA

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Introduction

We offer a review of this document published in 2022. The goal of this growing Green Libraries Toolbox is to provide resources and stories to help all people working in libraries to learn, investigate, find partners, and discover ways to get involved with sustainability in libraries.

We have maintained the structure of the first version, organizing it into five sections:

- *Clarifying concepts*: defines important concepts, ideas and challenging references.
- *International framework*: includes guides, documents and resources made by the United Nations (UN) and IFLA as well as a list of international and national working groups in this field from countries around the world.
- *Resources*: suggests links to books, articles, journals, videos, podcasts, repositories, games, blogs, and a green building section.
- *Green Libraries in the World*: shares a list of *networks* and inspiring experiences of sustainable libraries in different countries in their own language.
- *Annual International Days*: offers a table of selected UN International Days related to the environment, which we have connected to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

This first version of this document is based on a previous work carried out by Petra Hauke, as Secretary of IFLA's ENSULIB Section, whom we thank for her great compilation work.

We welcome anyone who wants to submit references and resources for this open publication. Please send an email to: rtoril@oapn.es.

1. Clarifying concepts

1.1. Green Library

- IFLA, ENSULIB Section. (2022, January). *What is a Green Library?* <https://www.ifla.org/ifla-green-library-definition/>
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1.2. Sustainability

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1.3. Sustainable Development

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1.4. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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2. International framework

2.1. United Nations, UNESCO

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- UNESCO. (2017). *Education for Sustainable Development Goals: Learning Objectives*. UNESCO. <https://doi.org/10.54675/CGBA9153> (translations into other languages)
- United Nations. (n.d.). *Make the SDGs a reality*. <https://sdgs.un.org/>
- United Nations. (2019, December 30). *The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in your language*. <https://unric.org/en/sdgs-in-your-language/>

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- United Nations. (n.d.). *UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme*. <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2013/08/unep-united-nations-environment-programme/>
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- UNESCO. (2020). Education for sustainable development: a roadmap. <https://doi.org/10.54675/YFRE1448> (with translations into many other languages)
- UNESCO. (2023). *Education for Sustainable Development for 2030 country initiatives*. <https://www.unesco.org/en/education-sustainable-development/country-initiatives>
- UNESCO. (2024). *What you need to know about education for sustainable development*. <https://www.unesco.org/en/education-sustainable-development/need-know>

2.2. IFLA, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

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Africa

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Europe

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Australia

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Croatia

- Croatian Library Association. (n.d.). *Commission for Green Libraries*. <https://www.hkdrustvo.hr/o-nama/organizacija-organizam/>

France

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Germany

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Italy

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Spain

- Consejo de Cooperación Bibliotecaria. Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte. (2025). *Bibliotecas y Agenda 2030*. <https://bit.ly/3aLGgyu>
- Red de Centros de Información y Documentación Ambiental (RECIDA). (n.d.). <http://recida.net/>

Switzerland

- Bibliosuisse. (n.d.). *Commission Biblio2030*. <https://www.bibliosuisse.ch/fr/apropos/commissions/biblio2030>

United Kingdom

- CILIP: the library and information association. (n.d.). *Green Libraries*. <https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibraries>

United States of America

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- CREW : Communities responding to extreme weather. (n.d.). <https://www.climatecrew.org/>
- Project ARCC: Archivists responding to climate change. (n.d.). <https://projectarcc.org/>
- Sustainable Libraries Initiative. (n.d.). <https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

3. Resources

3.0. General compilations

- ALA American Library Association. Resource guides: *Sustainability and Libraries*. (2025) <https://libguides.ala.org/SustainableLibraries/sustainability>
- ALA Council Committee on Sustainability. (2022). *Carbon Neutral/Carbon Offset FAQ*. <https://acortar.link/oNiyaZ>
- ALA American Library Association. *Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change* <https://www.ala.org/tools/programming/climatechange>
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- Bezerra Cardoso, N. (2021). *How is your library contributing to sustainable development?* <https://libraryscience.de/calculator/> [Calculator] <https://libraryscience.de/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CheckList-ENG.pdf> [Checklist] (different languages)
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<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/sustainability/learning-center>
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<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/regional-archival-associations-consortium-raac/disaster-planning-and-response-resources>
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<https://scottishlibraries.org/staff-development/climate-resources/>
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3.1. Publications

3.1.1. Bibliographies

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3.1.2. Repositories

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3.1.3. Monographies

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- Miller, K. (2010). *Public Libraries Going Green*. American Library Association. (ALA Public Library Handbook Series)
- Pun, R., & Shaffer, G. (eds.). (2019). *The Sustainable Library's Cookbook*. Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. (ACRL Cookbook Series)
- Tanner, R., Ho, Adrian K., Antonelli, M., Smith Aldrich, R. (eds.). (2021). *Libraries and Sustainability: Programs and Practices for Community Impact*. ALA Editions.

3.1.4. Journals, Special Issues

IFLA

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English

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French

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German

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- Büchereiverband Österreichs. (2015). Go Green: Bibliothek und Umwelt. *Büchereiperspektiven*, 2. <https://erwachsenenbildung.at/aktuell/nachrichten/18873-buechereiperspektiven-2-23-aktuell-im-regal.php>
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3.1.5. Articles

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3.1.6. Videos & Webinars

IFLA

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International

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- OCLC Global Council Area of Focus. (2021). *Sustainable development and libraries* [Webinars]. <https://www.oclc.org/research/publications/2021/sustainable-development-goals-study-2021.html>

French

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German

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- Netzwerk Grüne Bibliothek. (2021-). „Ideen-Café Grüne Bibliothek“. <https://www.netzwerk-gruene-bibliothek.de/ideen-cafe-gruene-bibliothek/>

Spanish

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- Centro de Documentación y Recursos para la Educación Ambiental de Cantabria. (2024). *Sinapsis ambiental*. CEDRAC. YouTube. <https://bit.ly/3yKJdbz>
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- Instituto Cervantes. (2019, March 19). *III Jornadas Sostenibilidad e Instituciones Culturales*. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHVjIacTRlv0Rk5dBegy_vlwb7Vd8zVH
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- ALA American Library Association. (2024 May, 13). Sustainability Strategies. Call Number Podcast: Episode 95 highlights libraries' green practices. <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/call-number-podcast-sustainability-strategies/>

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- Cfibd, Enssib, ABF, & Bpi. (n.d.) *Agenda 2030 et Bibliothèques - France: Jeu*. <https://agenda2030bibfr.wixsite.com/agenda2030bib/jeu>
- "Go Goals"! Willkommen zum SDG Brettspiel für Kinder (n.d.) <https://go-goals.org/de/>
- The Climate Fresk. (n.d.). *Understand climate change in three hours*. <https://climatefresk.org>
- García Rodríguez, M. (2021, December 29). *Recursos y juegos sobre la Agenda 2030*. Biblogtecarios. <https://bit.ly/3rVda4S>

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3.2. Green buildings

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- Green building. (2025, March 7) Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_building
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- Taiga Company. (n.d.). *Green Libraries*. [Pinterest page] Pinterest.
<https://www.pinterest.de/taigacompany/green-libraries/>
- World Green Building Council. (2025). *Case Study Library*.
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4. Green libraries in the world (networks, initiatives, strategies)

Australia

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- Australian Library and Information Association. ALIA Sustainable Libraries Group (Aug 27, 2021). *W.E.I.R.D steps to a greener library: Weeding magazines and rehoming them*.
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Austria

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Brazil

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China

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France

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5. Annual International Days

In this section we have selected some International days set by the United Nations that are more closely related to the environment and sustainability. We have also included the SDGs that are connected to each day.

[The Complete list of the official Annual International Days, that are observed or declared by the United Nations.](#)

JANUARY	
24 January International Day of Education	
26 January World Environmental Education Day (not observed by NU)	 
26 January International Day of Clean Energy	 
FEBRUARY	
2 February World Wetlands Day	 
11 February International Day of Women and Girls in Science	

MARCH	
3 March World Wildlife Day	   
21 March International Day of Forests	
22 March World Water Day	
23 March World Meteorological Day	
APRIL	
7 April World Health Day	
22 April Earth Day	
MAY	
14 May World Migratory Bird Day	
20 May World Bee Day	
22 May International Day for Biological Diversity	
JUNE	
3 June World Bicycle Day	 
5 June World Environment Day	
7 June World Food Safety Day	   
8 June World Oceans Day	

18 June Sustainable Gastronomy Day	
29 June International Day of the Tropics	
JULY	
11 July World Population Day	 
15 July World Youth Skills Day	   
30 July World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	
AUGUST	
09 August International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	  
12 August International Youth Day	   
19 August World Humanitarian Day	
27 August World Lake Day	
29 August International Day against Nuclear Tests	 
SEPTEMBER	
16 September International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	 
27 September World Tourism Day	     
28 September International Day for Universal Access to Information	

OCTOBER	
16 October World Food Day	   
23 October International Day of the Snow Leopard	 
NOVEMBER	
6 November International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	 
10 November World Science Day for Peace and Development	  
19 November World Toilet Day	 
20 November World Children's Day	    
25 November International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	  
DECEMBER	
5 December International Volunteer Day	 
5 December World Soil Day	
10 December Human Rights Day	 
11 December International Mountain Day	
20 December International Human Solidarity Day	 

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