Sustainable Library 2030 roadmap

Summary

Oulu City Library
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KESTÄVÄ KIRJASTO

Aluehallintovirasto

Introduction

An action plan for sustainable development was drawn in the Oulu City Library during spring 2020 by the name of Sustainable Library 2030 roadmap. The plan is based on the objectives of the UN Agenda 2030 (Appendices 1 and 2) and the ecological promises prepared by the City Library in 2015 (Appendix 3). When preparing the roadmap, it was also ensured that it fell in line with the objectives of the City of Oulu's environmental program Towards a Carbon-Neutral Oulu 2026, which entered into force in autumn 2019.

The Sustainable Library 2030 roadmap recorded the most important areas for development in the near future (2020-22) and prepared a detailed implementation plan for them. The roadmap consists of four main objectives: promoting environmental awareness, reducing environmental impact, responsible construction and a sustainable library for the future, as well as two specific areas for development, resource-wise regional development and the promotion of remote practices. Central to the preparation of the roadmap was also reflecting the set goals to the goals of Agenda 2030 relevant to the library's operations. The set goals were also examined in relation to how they reflect the library's own eco-promises.

This summary includes a compilation of how the Sustainable Library 2030 Roadmap goals are reflected on the Agenda 2030 goals. The reflection is illustrated by a few examples of the taken measures for each Agenda objective.

Preparers of the plan

Jouni Pääkkölä, Director of Library Services at the Oulu City Library, Minna Männikkö, District Manager of Library Services, and Salla Kananen, a project worker at A Responsible Library as Promoter of Environmental Awareness project, participated in the preparation of the roadmap. The Oulu City Library's Regional Development Team (AKE team) participated in determining the content of the goal for its own activities.

The views of the entire library staff were mapped in connection with the definition of a measure to reduce the use of adhesive plastic covers. In turn, customers were asked for suggestions on how the goals of the roadmap could be implemented in the library in the future. Maarit Talvitie, a climate expert for the Environmental Office of Oulu Region, acted as an expert in compiling the roadmap, and the members of the steering group of A

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Responsible Library as Promoter of Environmental Awareness project acted as commentators.

Main goals of the Sustainable Library 2030 roadmap

1. Promoting environmental awareness

The aim is to increase the environmental awareness of both customers and staff through the various means of environmental communication available. The aim is also to increase the library's visibility as an ecological actor by communicating externally about the library's own responsible activities. The means of communication will comprise all available communication channels and means, such as press releases in various media, signs, trainings, events, exhibitions and book tips. Asking for suggestions and opinions from customers and staff can also increase their awareness of environmental issues.

2. Reducing environmental impact

The aim is to review the library's energy use, logistics, recycling and collection practices and to reduce the environmental impact of their operations. The aim is also to reduce the use of unnecessary plastic.

3. Responsible construction

In order to reduce the ecological footprint of library properties, the aim is to take ecology into account in connection with major renovations and new construction through the entire construction process, from design to the finished building. The aim is to design and implement the most energy-efficient facilities possible and to pay attention to environmental friendliness in all solutions related to practical equipment and interior design. Responsibility in construction is also reflected in, among other things, involving customers and staff in the planning of future facilities.

4. Sustainable library of the future

Responsibility in construction is also reflected in, among other things, involving customers and staff in the planning of future facilities. In the future, the aim will also be to pay more attention to promoting social and cultural sustainability and to ensure the continuity of the

discussion. The sustainable library of the future will involve customers and staff more and more in the planning of its operations and thus strive to take into account different perspectives and opinions in the development of its operations.

Specific areas of development

1. Resource-wise regional development

The Oulu City Library manages the task of developing the public libraries of the municipalities of Northern Ostrobothnia and the Kainuu region. The development task supports the development of the public libraries in the area and the competence of the staff as well as promotes co-operation between the public libraries. The aim is to make regional development work (AKE) even more resource-wise, e.g., through enhancing collaboration and encouraging libraries to share expertise. The aim is also to examine the activities of the regional AKE teams and to make them more streamlined, e.g., by organizing the ways in which teams operate.

2. Promotion of remote practises

Promoting remote meetings and training both reduces the ecological footprint of mobility and travel and saves working time. The aim is to encourage library staff to participate in meetings and, where possible, in training more frequently through remote connections. The aim is also to develop teleconferencing practices to make remote participation more seamless.

Reflecting our goals on the goals of the UN Agenda 2030

All 17 goals of the UN Agenda 2030 (Appendices 1 and 2) apply to the library's activities at some level. It can be interpreted that the library's task for all Agenda 2030 goals is at least to provide up-to-date information on their topics to all customers equally.

However, only those Agenda objectives that can be considered to embody the objectives of the Roadmap were chosen as the basis for the Sustainable Library 2030 Roadmap. The next page presents a "We are committed to these goals" -summary depicting how the goals of the Roadmap are reflected in the goals of Agenda 2030.

We are committed to these goals

Roadmap Targets

1. Promoting environmental awareness

2. Reducing environmental impact

3. Responsible construction

4. Sustainable library of the future

5. Resource-wise regional development

6. Promotion of remote practices

Agenda Goals

Reflection of the Agenda's goals on the sustainable development efforts done in the Oulu City library

1. No poverty

- The library offers its services and collections to everyone equally
- By providing access to information, the library promotes study, training, employment and inclusion, thus combating exclusion that can lead to poverty.

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3. Good health and well-being

 - The library's collection contains a wide range of up-to-date material on health and well-being
- Promotion of lending of objects (e.g., lending of sports equipment and musical instruments)
- Promotion of reading and music
- The library invests in the comfort of its customers in the library (comfortable facilities)
- Promoting the sharing economy and civic competences (inclusion)

4. Quality education

- The library offers everyone equal access to information
- The library provides equipment, workspaces and learning environments to support study
- Promoting multi-reading and digital knowledge
- The library promotes lifelong learning by offering its services to all age groups

7. Affordable and clean energy

- Library energy saving measures (e.g., water-saving nozzles, LED lighting, lighting with motion detectors)
- Energy-efficient use of premises (e.g., multi-purpose buildings, the future Central Library will be even more energy-efficient)
- Use of solar energy
- The library's construction projects aim to take into account energy-efficient and ecological alternatives in energy solutions as well as in the interior design and details of the premises.

9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure

- The development of co-operation and operating models will help to build a more efficient library network
- Both library staff and customers benefit from an extensive network and the sharing of knowledge
- Promoting remote meetings and training

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- Development of remote practises

10. Reduced inequalities

- Equality is the fundamental principle of the public library
- The library is seen as a safe, low-threshold place where people from different socio-economic backgrounds can meet each other

11. Sustainable cities and communities

 - The library is an integral part of basic services from both a social and cultural perspective
 - The library nurtures cultural heritage by preserving local documentation for future generations
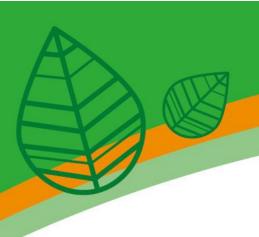
12. Responsible consumption

- The basic idea of the library, borrowing, supports responsible consumption
- Library material circulates: one book can be borrowed up to a hundred times
- Library material "floats": customers can borrow books from any Oulu City Library branch and return them to any branch, from where they can again be borrowed directly on to subsequent customers
- The life cycle of the book from procurement to recycling is managed with careful consideration
- Promoting the sharing economy (including object loans)
- Consideration of ecology in all procurements
- Renovation and reuse of old, usable furniture in the library, e.g., in the renovated premises

13. Climate action

- Promoting environmental awareness and communication supports sustainable development and is in itself a climate act.
- All measures aimed at reducing the environmental impact, if implemented, are climate actions, such as reducing the use of plastic, improving sorting,

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promoting remote practises, creating a Sustainable Library 2030 roadmap and a commitment to continuous improvement.

16. Peace and justice, strong institutions

- The library defends democracy and promotes equal treatment for all
- Operational and service decisions are made by assessing their impact on all customer groups
- The library's management is committed to the goals of sustainable development and wants it to be an essential and visible part of the library's operations in the future as well

17. Partnerships for the goals

- The library co-operates with various actors and partners and thus also contributes to the efforts done for sustainable development
- The development of co-operation and operating models will help to build a more efficient library network
- Both library staff and customers benefit from an extensive network and the sharing of knowledge

Implementation and validity of the roadmap

Implementation

The roadmap was already implemented in part during the Responsible Library as a Promoter of Environmental Awareness project. After the project, the library management and staff will commit to the goals and measures of the plan through the teams operating in the library. Sustainable development permeates all library functions. The implementation is supported by the employees responsible for the sustainable development in the teams and the eco-support staff of the libraries.

The realization of the objectives is monitored by indicators selected separately for each objective and its measures. Monitoring results are reviewed annually. If necessary, corrective action is planned.

Communication

The Sustainable Library 2030 roadmap is communicated to all library staff and customers as well as the stakeholders. Communication highlights common goals and ways to achieve them. Communication is an integral part of the implementation of the plan.

Validity

The Sustainable Library 2030 roadmap was completed in May 2020 and is valid until the end of 2022. The plan will be updated annually as needed. The new targets will be defined next in 2023 at the latest.

Appendix 1

Source:

Appendix 2

Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda

Appendix 3

Library's eco-promises

1. The use of library is an eco-action
2. Technological solutions of the library are environmentally friendly
3. Logistics of the library goes green
4. Library recirculates
5. Towards sustainable energy solutions
6. Library – environmentally close

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