

## **Policy 126 / General Policies**

### ***Sustainability***

The Board and Staff of the Villa Park Public Library believe that the natural environment is a key asset to our community, now and for future generations. We are committed to minimizing adverse effects of library activities on the environment, and to leading the community in sustainable practices.

In accordance with the American Library Association's statement on Sustainability as a Core Value (adopted revisions, January 2024), the library will implement practices that promote the health of employees, patrons, and the environment.

### ***Operations***

We will integrate environmental considerations into operating the library, including procurement of office, cleaning, catering, and landscaping supplies. We will prefer products that are non-toxic, biodegradable, made of recycled content, and reusable. We will dispose of library materials through channels for reuse or recycling.

### ***Facilities***

We will use natural resources, including electricity, gas, and water, as efficiently as possible. We will aim to reduce our usage of water and energy. We will upgrade to more efficient water and energy systems where feasible as technology advances. In addition, we will purchase commercial grade furniture in order to reduce replacement of furniture.

### ***Waste***

We will minimize waste by choosing reusable products when feasible, and using compostable or recycled products when disposables are warranted. We will promote reusable products in the library among staff, patrons, and suppliers. We will choose products with minimal packaging wherever possible. We will minimize food waste by offering composting in the staff room and at library events.

### ***Education***

We will communicate our commitment to environmental quality to our staff, vendors, and patrons. We will encourage employee participation in environmentally sensitive practices, and cooperate and participate with local agencies such as the Villa Park Environmental Concerns Commission and others in green initiatives. We will actively seek new ways to collaborate with these environmental organizations and the community.

### ***Continuous improvement***

We will seek opportunities to improve our environmental performance.

Adopted 01/29/2025