



# Environmental Sustainability Policy

Approved by: Eastern Counties Regional Library Board

Date approved: April 28, 2022

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Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL) understands that supporting the well-being and health of the communities we serve requires a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and practices that support sustainable living. On-going efforts must be made to consistently reduce the carbon footprint of library operations, decrease resource and energy usage, and model behaviors that will ensure a positive future for ECRL's service area.

## Transportation

Considering ECRL's unique position as the largest geographic library region in Nova Scotia, the extent of road travel undertaken by Library Staff and Library Board Members within the library region is substantial. This is a key area where our carbon footprint can be reduced by:

1. Avoiding unnecessary travel. To the extent it is operationally practicable, meetings, training, and regular work will be conducted virtually. Video conferencing tools and other technology to enable these virtual activities will be purchased and kept up-to-date. This will reduce the carbon footprint both of the organization's operations and of staff members and Board members themselves. Considering the long travel times between destinations in our region, this is also respectful of staff members' and Board members' time and personal energy.
2. Choosing vehicles that are as environmentally friendly as possible within our rural infrastructure, and ensuring vehicles are maintained and kept in good repair.

## Energy and Resources

ECRL will engage in efforts to decrease its energy and resource use by:

- Making decisions regarding lighting, heating, cooling, ventilation, and appliances that consider the most energy-efficient practices and options available.
- Assessing the Regional Office facility to identify potential energy-saving maintenance and/or upgrades, and integrating those into an overall facility management plan for improving efficiency and reducing energy use over the long-term.
- Giving preference to renewable over non-renewable energy sources, when feasible.

- Continuing to place high importance on recycling wherever possible when disposing of discarded library materials.
- Minimizing our contribution to environmental pollutants by choosing the most environmentally friendly products that are able to perform a comparable job at a competitive price.
- Making purchasing decisions that place a high value on sustainably produced products and local manufacturers/suppliers.
- Promoting responsible and efficient use of office materials and resources throughout our offices, including paper, water, electricity, and other resources.

## Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy or its related procedures please contact [admin@ecrl.ca](mailto:admin@ecrl.ca).