

# **Richmond Free Library**

## **SUSTAINABILITY POLICY**

The Richmond Free Library strives towards the “triple bottom line” definition of sustainability: using practices that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable. In these times of biodiversity loss, climate change, and social upheaval, Vermont libraries are key to providing leadership on sustainability by providing shared resources that educate and support communities; building resilience and fostering community conversations about a sustainable future; and making choices that minimize our negative impact on the earth and set a positive example.

We will, wherever possible, conserve energy and water, support renewable energy resources, reduce waste, reuse materials as much as possible, minimize pollution, buy environmentally friendly products, avoid harmful chemicals, protect habitat in our outdoor space, and encourage environmentally preferable transportation, while aiming for economic efficiency. These efforts are extended to contractor and supplier relationships. We will encourage contractors and suppliers serving or otherwise acting on behalf of the organization to meet our standards of environmental performance.

The understanding and involvement of all library staff and the Board of Trustees are essential to the implementation of this policy. All employees will receive a copy of this policy. Staff are encouraged to be proactive and apply sustainable thinking in their areas of work, including facilities, operations, policy, technology, programming, and partnerships.

*Adopted by RFL Trustees on February 13, 2023*