

**TO: ALA Council**

**RE: Information**

**ACTION REQUESTED  
INFORMATION**

**DATE: June 7, 2024**

**BACKGROUND:**

1. At the 2021 Virtual ALA Conference, Council approved a goal to offset all ALA conferences by the year 2025 and will remain carbon neutral for these events thereafter." This goal is one year away.

In January 2023, the ALA Council Sustainability Committee asked the ALA Executive Board to incorporate the full cost of offsetting 100% of the carbon footprint for ALA's bi-annual conferences into the registration fee as the most equitable and efficient method of addressing this issue, therefore achieving the primary goal of the resolution. After consulting with the Executive Committee, it was recommended that this action request be directed to the Budget Analysis

2. At the 2024 Hybrid Council Meeting at Annual, Council ADOPTED, [ALA CD# 59, Resolution to Investigate Changing Dates for Future Annual Conferences of the American Library Association](#)

Resolve three asked for a progress report and outcomes of this investigation and outcomes of this investigation to be presented to its membership by ALA Annual 2024, ensuring transparency and accountability in its decision-making process.

**REPORT:**

**Carbon Neutral Resolution**

As Chair of the Conference Committee I have facilitated the exchange of information between [SustainRT](#) and the [Council Committee on Sustainability](#), to collaborate on various projects aimed at increasing awareness and participation in Carbon Offsets donations. SustainRT's committees, in coordination with the Conference Committee, have assisted in proofreading and sponsoring an Emerging Leaders project dedicated

**Call to Action:**

We recognize that your place of employment may have policies in place that prohibit the contribution towards carbon offsets, or perhaps your organization has another company that they offset travel for staff. This is information that we hope to gather in the survey that everyone receives after conference has ended. Please take the time to answer the survey so that we can gather data to make more informed decisions.

Perhaps you were unaware that carbon offsets were an option at registration because a business manager took care of this process for you. As long as you have access to your account, you can go back in and use your own funds to donate to the Carbon Offset fund. Carbon offset purchases are an acknowledgment that there are limits to an individual's ability to reduce energy use. To make up for the carbon emissions we cannot avoid, ALA uses a third party to take another action to reduce carbon emissions elsewhere. We have once again partnered with [Native](#), a public benefits company and [certified B Corp](#).

**While you are in San Diego:**

- Please check out the Emerging Leaders' poster session on Friday, June 28, 2024, from 2:30-3:30 pm in the Marriott Marquis – Pacific Ballroom Sections 14-17. Their project entailed creating a multi-year marketing plan for ALA conferences that promotes waste reduction and member purchases of carbon offsets. The marketing plan addresses a strategy for reaching libraries and library staff both within and outside of SustainRT. Part of the plan will include details on how conference attendees can be a part of strategies to reduce waste at ALA conferences.
- Visit the Sails Pavilion and check out the "ALA Sustainability Efforts" table.
- Use low-carbon transportation options. Use the complimentary shuttles that ALA provides, ride public transportation (buses and trains), or rideshare with people you know.
- Turn in your conference badge.

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