



Alliance Library System

Going Green

Proposal Synopsis

Alliance Library System employees, members, and visitors will learn about conserving energy, recycling, and reducing ALS’s impact on the environment. This proposal addresses changes which will make ALS a “greener” workplace. In addition, ALS will become an example to other libraries interested in “going green.”

Project Descriptions

The following projects, as assessed by the Alliance Library System Health & Safety Committee (hereto referred to as the H&S Committee), are included in the “Going Green” proposal:

RECYCLING

The H&S Committee proposes recycling paper products, including copy paper, newspaper, magazines, etc.

Anticipated Benefits

Reduced waste
Employee initiative in “going green”
Positive organizational image to employees and visitors

Potential Disadvantages

Increased costs
Increased employee involvement

Estimated Costs

Recycling Bins <i>(included with recycling service)</i>	no cost
Pick-up Costs <i>(\$25.00 per pick up)</i>	
	\$ 25.00 per month
Less estimated aluminum can money	
	\$ 1.00 per month
Total Costs	\$ 288.00 per year

REPLACING BALLASTS & LIGHT BULBS

The H&S Committee proposes installing newer, more energy efficient ballasts and light bulbs.

Anticipated Benefits

Energy reduction
The newer ballasts and lights use 45 fewer watts.
Cost reduction over time
Savings to the HVAC system annually total \$ 1,994.32. This savings results in a pay-back of the costs in 1.3 years.

Potential Disadvantages

Increased costs in the short run

Estimated Costs

Replacement of 112 Ballasts	\$1,673.28
Replacement of 448 light bulbs	\$ 519.68
Total Costs	\$2,192.96



We have to show leadership in protecting our environment so that we have a future for our children and grandchildren.

~Arnold Schwarzenegger



INSTALLING TINTED WINDOW FILM

The H&S Committee proposes installing tinted window film on the back windows, back doors, and front doors. The film will provide for energy savings through heat and cooling reductions.

Anticipated Benefits	Potential Disadvantages	Estimated Costs
Heat rejection	Mirrored appearance from outside	Film for 16 back windows
Glare reduction	Darker interior on cloudy days	\$ 448.00
Ultraviolet light reduction	Increased short term costs	Film for back doors
Daytime privacy		\$ 62.00
Outside uniform appearance		Film for front doors
Protection		\$ 236.00
Longevity		Film under handles
Warranty		\$ 60.00
Maintenance		Installation
Eliminates need for blinds on many days		\$ 45.00
		Total Costs
		\$ 851.00



CONTROLLING HVAC TEMPERATURE

The H&S Committee proposes maintaining temperatures in all areas of ALS to optimize energy savings and efficiency during the winter and summer seasons. Optimum savings during the winter may be maintained at 68 degrees Fahrenheit and optimum savings during the summer may be maintained at 76 degrees Fahrenheit. The H&S Committee proposes maintaining the temperature of all areas to 68 degrees during the winter and 76 degrees in the summer. The Committee also proposes to maintain this consistency by preventing individual temperature control by employees.

Anticipated Benefits	Potential Disadvantages	Estimated Costs
Energy efficiency	Employees may be uncomfortable	None
Cost savings		
Consistent temperature		



MOWING & WATERING

The H&S Committee proposes reducing the frequency of mowing and watering the lawn. The Committee proposes reducing mowing the side, back of the building, and new land to once a month. Additionally, the Committee proposes reducing watering the grass to once a month.

Anticipated Benefits	Potential Disadvantages	Estimated Costs
Reduced costs	Possible discoloration of grasses	None
Reduced emissions and water usage	Taller grasses	
Reduced labor		

PLANTING TREES

The H&S Committee proposes planting trees along the west property line and a few in back of building. The Committee will promote employees purchasing inexpensive trees (estimated cost \$1.00 per tree) around Arbor Day. These smaller trees will be planted along with a few larger more expensive trees.

Anticipated Benefits	Potential Disadvantages	Estimated Costs
Reduced energy costs	Increased costs	Purchase of smaller trees (25) \$ 25.00
Increased air quality		Purchase of larger trees (20) \$ 2,000.00
Increased shaded area for employees to enjoy lunch outdoors		Total Costs \$ 2,025.00

INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS

The H&S Committee proposes installing solar panels to provide energy savings for hot water and electricity. (Please note that the governmental savings are estimated and are subject to change and approval.)

Anticipated Benefits	Potential Disadvantages	Estimated Costs
Reduced energy costs	Increased initial costs	Hot Water Solar Panels \$ 6,000.00
Positive organizational image to employees and visitors	Solar panels may be unattractive	Less Governmental savings*
		State (up to 30%) (\$ 1,800.00)
		Federal (up to \$2,500.00) (\$ 2,500.00)
		Total Costs \$ 1,700.00

PLACING PLANTS IN THE ATRIUM

The H&S Committee proposes placing plants in the atrium to provide a healthful and safe indoor air environment.

Anticipated Benefits	Potential Disadvantages	Estimated Costs
Increased indoor air quality	Increased initial costs	Large 7'-8' Kentia Palm/container \$ 325.00
Reduced sickness among employees	Increased responsibility for designated employees to water plants	Braided 7' Dracena Marginatta/container \$ 145.00
Increased productivity		Other varieties of plants (\$95.00 each) \$ 285.00
Reduced medical costs		Total Costs \$ 755.00



We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our children.

~Native American Proverb



When one tugs at a single thing in nature,
he finds it attached to the rest of the world.

~John Muir



REDUCING ELECTRICITY USAGE

The H&S Committee proposes turning off lights in areas that are not in use and turning off computers when employees are away from their desks for extended periods of time.

Anticipated Benefits

Reduced energy usage
Reduced costs

Potential Disadvantages

Increased employee involvement

Estimated Costs

None



USING REUSABLE DISHES & SILVERWARE

The H&S Committee proposes using reusable dishes and silverware by employees and smaller group events at ALS. The Committee proposes not offering disposable dishes and silverware in the kitchen. The H&S Committee will follow up with the clean up of dishes.

Anticipated Benefits

Reduced waste
Reduced costs

Potential Disadvantages

Employee dissatisfaction
Increased dirty dishes

Estimated Costs

None

Conclusion

Although there may be some upfront investment on the larger proposed “green” initiatives in the above mentioned projects, the benefits to the environment as well as long-term costs savings will outweigh any of the initial costs. Further, the smaller proposed projects that involve little, if any, costs will aid in offsetting the investment required for the larger projects. Finally, the favorable organizational image “going green” will have on employees, visitors, and others will help bring ALS increased positive public awareness at a time when “going green” is at the forefront in America.

*Submitted April 2009
Alliance Library System Health & Safety Committee
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