



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.

| <b>Anticipated Benefits</b>                             | <b>Potential Disadvantages</b> | <b>Estimated Costs</b>                                  |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Reduced waste   | Increased costs                | Recycling Bins <i>(included with recycling service)</i> |
| Employee initiative in “going green”                    | Increased employee involvement | no cost   |
| Positive organizational image to employees and visitors |                                | 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.

| <b>Anticipated Benefits</b>   | <b>Potential Disadvantages</b>   | <b>Estimated Costs</b>         |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Energy reduction  | Increased costs in the short run | Replacement of 112 Ballasts    |
| <i>The newer ballasts and lights use 45 fewer watts.</i>  |                                  | \$1,673.28                     |
| Cost reduction over time  |                                  | Replacement of 448 light bulbs |
| <i>Savings to the HVAC system annually total \$ 1,994.32. This savings results in a pay-back of the costs in 1.3 years.</i> |                                  | \$ 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.

| <b>Anticipated Benefits</b>                                 | <b>Potential Disadvantages</b> | <b>Estimated Costs</b>                    |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 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.)

| <b>Anticipated Benefits</b>                             | <b>Potential Disadvantages</b>   | <b>Estimated Costs</b>                   |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 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.

| <b>Anticipated Benefits</b>      | <b>Potential Disadvantages</b>                                    | <b>Estimated Costs</b>                             |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 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  
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