

# 2019-2021 KFL Sustainability Plan

10.16.18

Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, improving the quality and equity of human life while living within the carrying capacity of support ecosystems, and acting with respect for nature, universal human rights, and economic justice. (Brundtland Report, 1987. UCCS Office of Sustainability)

To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable. (ALA Special Task Force on Sustainability, 2018)

## KFL Team Green

In the spirit of supporting the University of Colorado Colorado Springs' sustainability mission, the Kraemer Family Library (KFL) established KFL Team Green in October of 2014. The Team consists of KFL staff members and faculty librarians from various library departments who wrote the following mission statement:

- KFL Team Green raises awareness of sustainability opportunities in the Kraemer Family Library and around the UCCS campus, and explores ways to enable environmentally sustainable behavior in our professional and personal lives.

## Kraemer Family Library Strategic Plan Sustainability Statement

The 2015-2020 Kraemer Family Library Strategic Plan includes statements related to sustainability:

- Value Statement: We practice and promote environmentally sustainable behavior.
- Strategic Direction 1: Position the library as an integral part of campus culture and life
  - Action Item: Support sustainability efforts and education in the library, on campus, and in the community.

## UCCS Sustainability Goals

The UCCS Sustainability Strategic Plan 2012-2020 states that "The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs will be a recognized leader in sustainability, integrating social justice, economic, and ecological values into institutional policies, programs and practices." The Kraemer Family Library seeks to be a key player in this campus sustainability movement. We seek to contribute to these elements of the plan's mission by:

- modeling effective and efficient resource usage and fiscal responsibility
- educating the University community about the importance of individual and institutional environmental and social responsibility
- preparing our students by integrating sustainability literacy into academic learning and research across the curriculum
- integrating sustainability into all aspects of the library, including buildings, operations, planning, and purchasing, in a way that we minimize the impact upon the Earth
- fostering a culture of sustainability throughout our library, campus and also our extended community

## Kraemer Family Library Sustainability Plan

The Kraemer Family Library pledges to be an active partner in advancing sustainability at UCCS through the following action items that align with the library strategic plan and campus sustainability plan. We seek to empower KFL staff and student employees to embed sustainability practices throughout daily activities and to inspire individual and organizational decisions that lead directly to reducing energy use and waste production so we may reduce our environmental impact. We wish to apply sustainability thinking in our operations, programs, and practices into the future. Through such initiatives, we can establish the library as a living example of sustainable practice to serve as a teaching tool for students, staff, and faculty on campus and in the community.

## ***Sustainable KFL Practices***

Through these practices, we seek to strengthen our organizational culture of sustainability and to establish sustainability thinking as part of our processes and practices related to our facility, operations, and technology. We seek to prioritize procurement practices that are environmentally sound and economically feasible to become a library that operates efficiently and effectively, using fewer resources, creating less waste, and saving money.

### **Recycling & Composting**

- provide the infrastructure to reduce solid waste in the library by recycling paper, cardboard, glass, plastics #1-7, aluminum, steel cans, etc.
- compost at KFL staff on-campus gatherings to reduce waste
- track the number of materials such as books, periodicals, microfiche/film, DVDs/VHS and cases, bubble wrap, soft plastics, Styrofoam that are diverted from the landfill through alternative recycling or re-use streams
- continue to reevaluate the need for additional alternative recycling solutions
- explore addition of battery/electrical component, toner cartridge, and pen/marker/binder recycling bins within KFL for use by UCCS community since we are a high traffic hub of the campus

### **Staff Training and Workflow**

- add environmental impact section in KFL Implementation Plan form to invite actions during project planning to mitigate waste and invite sustainable purchasing practices
- evaluate and reward contributions to the library's sustainability plan through the establishment of specific goals as part of the employee's annual evaluation process
- work with KFL supervisors to encourage employees to attend at least one campus sustainability event per plan period
- work with KFL Administration to add statement to KFL job posting "description" section such as: Demonstrate environmental sustainability by supporting the library's sustainability initiatives and innovation
- hold semiannual professional development for KFL staff to explore updated KFL sustainability practices and to foster awareness of and involvement in sustainability initiatives
- orient new KFL employees to KFL sustainable practices during the Volunteer Committee portion of New Employee Orientation
- create a tool to assist with educating KFL staff and student employees on KFL sustainable practices

### **Technology/Facilities**

- conduct a social media campaign at the start of each semester to raise awareness with staff and students to turn off lights when work or study spaces are not in use
- audit newly installed KFL lighting to determine areas that may need to be de-lamped again

### **Sustainable Procurement**

- meet with KFL staff who purchase office supplies and staff consumables to understand and assess current purchasing practices and discuss shift to recycled, recyclable/compostable environmentally friendly products when available
- during semiannual KFL staff meeting professional development, review updates to Procurement Guidelines of the UCCS Sustainability Office: <https://www.uccs.edu/sustain/operations/procurement>
- during semiannual KFL staff meeting professional development, review updates to the UCCS Sustainability Office Sustainable Purchasing Catalog of suggested office supplies available for purchase through Staples: <https://www.uccs.edu/sustain/sites/sustain/files/inline-files/SustainablePurchasingCatalog.pdf>
- team up with KFL Circulation to continue to identify items for library lending of non-daily, non-book use items and promote these items annually as a method to reduce personal purchase of occasional use items while raising awareness of environmental impacts of consumption

### **Sustainability Literacy and Advocacy**

- use KFL social media outlets to post quarterly highlights of KFL resources and sustainability initiatives with the campus community
- partner with the UCCS Sustainability Office to continue to use the Sustainability Guide as tool to track sustainability research on campus
- contribute to sustainable education and awareness through displays, participation in campus events, and promotion of Green Action Fund and Sustainability Office activities
- Explore Just Talk programs/films in partnership with SOLE and/or the Sustainability Office to expose the themes of equity, diversity, and inclusiveness with sustainability
- Each Team Green member will actively research other library sustainability programs and initiatives, sharing findings regularly at team meetings

### **KFL Student Employee Engagement**

- encourage the assistance of student employees with KFL presence at campus sustainability events with supervisor approval
- develop handout outlining KFL sustainable practices to assist with new KFL student orientation
- include KFL sustainable practices in KFL student employee training

### **Collaboration**

- explore new opportunities to strengthen relationships with the Green Action Fund and UCCS Sustainability Office to expand our learning and stretch our practices by applying for 1 GAF annually as feasible
- establish and continue community links with local higher education institutions and public libraries to collaborate and share sustainable practices through annual gathering inviting CC, PPCC, PPLD
- when KFL library roof ready for replacement in 2020, work with UCCS Facilities and Sustainability Office to explore solar grants such as the Ebsco Solar grant for funding solar panels on the new library roof