



THE
NORMAN WILLIAMS
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Presentation

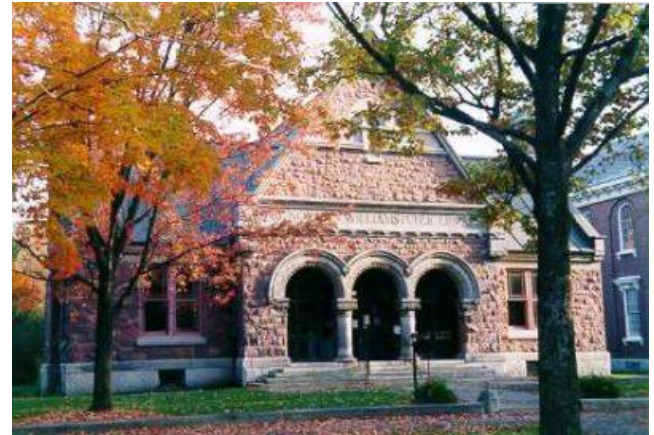
About The Library

This beautiful pink sandstone building which graces Woodstock's famous Green was built in 1883-1884 culminating a century of the Shire Town's devotion to learning and literature. Woodstock has always been an unusually literate community: in the early 19th century private academies, a medical college, and reading circles flourished. Five weekly newspapers were published. The new library gave tangible, enduring form to this tradition.

A gift of Dr. Edward H. Williams, the library was constructed on the site of the home of his parents, Norman and Mary Williams. The new library was an immediate and somewhat overwhelming success. In 1901, Dr. Williams funded a double-wing transept addition. The library became incorporated, and remains a non-profit corporation relying on the generosity of people like Dr. Williams.

Today, the library is a modern facility that respects its cultural, historical, and architectural histories while providing the best of contemporary library services to the greater Woodstock area. The NWPL is open to the public six days a week. The town of Woodstock funds about 40% of the library's operating budget. Over the next few years its collection of books and media is expected to reach almost 70,000 offerings.

The NWPL Board of Trustees is committed to continuing the long history of progress to meet its community members' informational, cultural enrichment, and life-long learning needs.



Sustainability Policy



The Norman Williams Public Library (NWPL) is committed to promoting responsible environmental stewardship and buying environmentally friendly products. Employee understanding and involvement are essential to the implementation of our sustainability policy. All employees will be educated about our organization's efforts to improve our environmental performance and will be involved in supporting our goals.

Energy management is an integral part of the library's sustainability efforts. Decisions regarding lighting, heating and cooling, and appliances will consider the most energy-efficient practices and options available.

The principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle will be incorporated into all aspects of the library's operations. The library will use clearly labeled recycling bins and signs throughout the facility. The library will engage in green purchasing whenever possible as long as it is not a financial burden on the organization.

The library will conduct efficient and environmentally friendly land usage practices with a view to non-pollution and active ecological support and sustainable business operations. Our goal is to minimize our impact on the environment, ensure a sustainable future, and promote community resilience. NWPL staff are expected to engage in procedures and programs that strive to minimize pollution and waste, conserve energy and water, protect habitat, and support renewable energy resources.

Outdoor Spaces

- Our local garden club and Friends of the Library group work to maintain a perennial garden including many native species.
- Plantings are mulched in the spring to reduce water use.
- We do not use any pesticides or herbicides on our gardens.
- Our gardens are monitored carefully to prevent invasive species from spreading.
- There are caps on the tops of our outdoor lights to reduce skyglow and other types of light pollution.



Indoor Spaces

- In 2020, we installed a new HVAC system which has greatly improved air quality.
- To reduce the exposure to potentially hazardous chemical contaminants we strive to purchase green cleaning products.
- Workstations with natural light, overhead LED lighting, and task lighting meet the needs of patrons and staff.
- Indoor plants and fresh cut flowers throughout the library improve the environment.



Transportation

- A bike rack is available for patrons and staff.
- We have co hosted an e-bike training and lending program with Sustainable Woodstock.
- Staff are allowed to work remotely to reduce carbon emissions from travel.



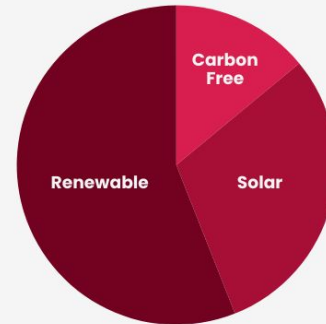
Energy

- For the 2023-2024 fiscal year the library's electricity consumption was equivalent to 50.042 metric tons of CO₂.
- We have an agreement with a local solar array which covers approximately 25-40% of our power needs and the rest of our power is sourced from Green Mountain Power which offers 100% carbon free, 80% renewable power. They often source power from Hydro Quebec.
- Assuming the solar array covers 30% of our power needs in a given month that means that 86% of our power is renewable and 100% is low carbon or carbon free.

Electricity Consumption

at NWPL

Monthly Energy Use



56%

Renewable

Renewable energy resources include large hydro, local hydro, and solar.

30%

Solar

We have an existing agreement with a local solar array that provides 30% of our power on average.

14%

Carbon Free

Carbon free energy that is not renewable may include nuclear, or certain types of hydroelectric power.

Water

- All sinks are fitted with water efficient taps with aerators.
- Our outdoor plants do not require watering which reduces water use.
- Hot water pipes are insulated to reduce heat loss.
- We have made a commitment to purchasing WaterSense products.



Materials

- We have made a commitment to making responsible and environmentally friendly purchases for the library.
- Recycling bins are placed throughout the library.
- We offer battery and small electronic recycling to the community.
- Reusable canvas library are bags available for patrons to purchase. We also offer used shopping bags for patrons to use to transport their books.
- Furniture and fixtures are sold or donated to reduce waste.



Collective Impact

- We work to encourage voter registration through displays, our newsletter, webpage, local newspaper, and area listservs.
- We partner with local independent bookstores for author events.
- We partner with Bookstock, the local literary festival.
- We work with the local senior center to provide short tech classes and one on one tutorials.



Social Cohesion



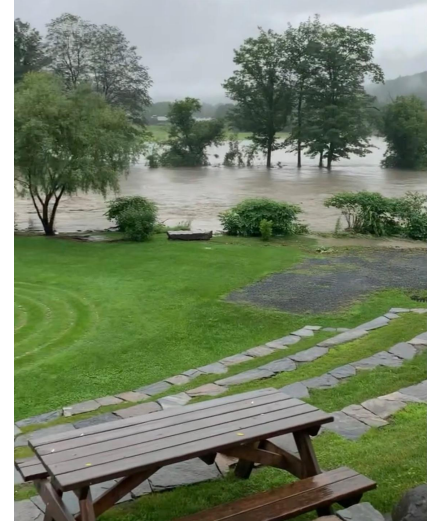
- We deliver books to local senior living facilities so that residents can access them regardless of any mobility challenges.
- In conjunction with the Thompson Senior Center, we recently hosted a series of workshops, Creative Play for Seniors.
- Ongoing library programs include knitting, bridge, book discussion groups, children's story time, and more.

Resilience Planning

- The library has a designated emergency procedure policy to help staff determine the appropriate actions to take in an emergency situation.
- Human safety is always the primary concern in emergency situations.



- Our new HVAC system allows us to serve as a cooling center for the community during summer heat waves.
- During the floods of July 2023 our library was available to the community as an emergency shelter for people who were displaced from their homes.



Financial Sustainability

- We provide all employees with a wage that exceeds the MIT living wage calculation for Vermont.
- We have a Finance and Development Committee that plans for monthly revenue and expenditures.
- Our Finance and Development Committee develops plans for fundraising efforts and events to meet current and future fundraising needs.
- We use generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) to help us to provide useful financial information for stakeholders, library and municipal officials, donors, and others who have a vested interest in our library.



Collections

- The NWPL seeks to have a balanced collection that serves the greatest number of users and potential users within the greater Woodstock community. The Library's acquisition of material does not constitute endorsement of its content.
- Our development policy is directed toward building and maintaining a collection of materials representing a wide range of interests, views, tastes, and values, including cultural and racial diversity.
- Books that are weeded from the collection are assessed to determine if they will be placed in our ongoing booksale, or if they will be donated, otherwise sold, or recycled.





Thank You!