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67 North Main Street Randolph, VT

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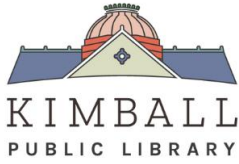
Getting Started

We began working on our Sustainable Libraries Initiative Certification in 2023.

Library staff and trustees meet monthly to discuss our progress, and take action on the more intensive tasks as a group.

There are 10 sections posted around the Library.

Our conclusion holds some reflections from staff and trustees about the process.



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Outdoor Spaces

We have been focusing on our grounds management by introducing native plants to our garden and removing invasive plants.

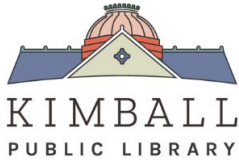
We aspire to establish a pollinator garden to encourage bees, butterflies, and other pollinators to enjoy our library grounds as well.

Another focus of outdoor space is to reduce light pollution. We always turn off our porch lights at closing, to reduce light pollution.



Finally, we are striving to be litter free. We need your help to use the Green Cone biodigester effectively, and ask you to pick up trash you see on your walk to or from the Library!





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Indoor Spaces

In 2023, we installed mechanical ventilation, dehumidification, and heat pumps to increase air circulation and reduce our energy usage for cooling.



Thanks to help from Randolph area teens, we installed a fridge and pantry to increase access to food, including fresh foods.

This Community Fridge and Pantry is open 24/7, located under the awning.

Cleaning products are safest and most beneficial for the environment when they are made using natural and safe ingredients, such as vinegar and baking soda. Look for this label for help making choices!





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Transportation

Each month, library staff commuting and business miles are equivalent to 343 lbs of coal burned. In order to offset this amount, we would need to plant 5.1 trees each month and grow them for 10 years!

To convert your Carbon Footprint, visit bit.ly/emissionsfootprint or scan the QR code.



So what can we do?



Take Tri-Valley Transit, bike, or walk whenever possible. TVT's Randolph routes are free!

Don't idle! Idling for more than 10 seconds produces more emissions than stopping and restarting your vehicle.

Annually, Kimball Library and the Randolph Rec Department partner to offer Bike Club, a fun way to get kids out and about around town to learn how to stay safe while biking. We also teach basic bike maintenance skills!



Kimball Library and many other businesses / organizations offer bike racks around town so you can keep your bike secure while you're running your errands.



Randolph Bike-Walk-and-Roll has been working diligently to improve pedestrian and bike safety by enhancing visibility at crosswalks and repairing/replacing sidewalks.



Find mountain biking trails around town, including Maple Run at the Rec Park, the Sayward Forest up Tatro Hill Rd, the Reservoir Trails, and the trails from Mari Castle/Thayer Brook Rd.



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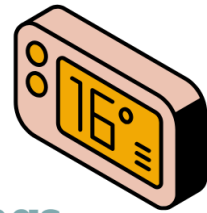
Energy

This section is all about reducing our energy consumption!

The first step is to take note of where our energy use is high, then make adjustments.

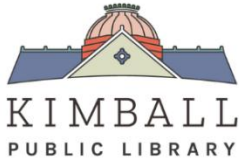


We set our computers, printer, thermostats, water heater, and refrigerators to energy saving settings.



We now have motion sensor lights in the downstairs and upstairs restrooms that turn off when not in use.

And it turns out, keeping lights off when they are not in use is a big way to reduce consumption!

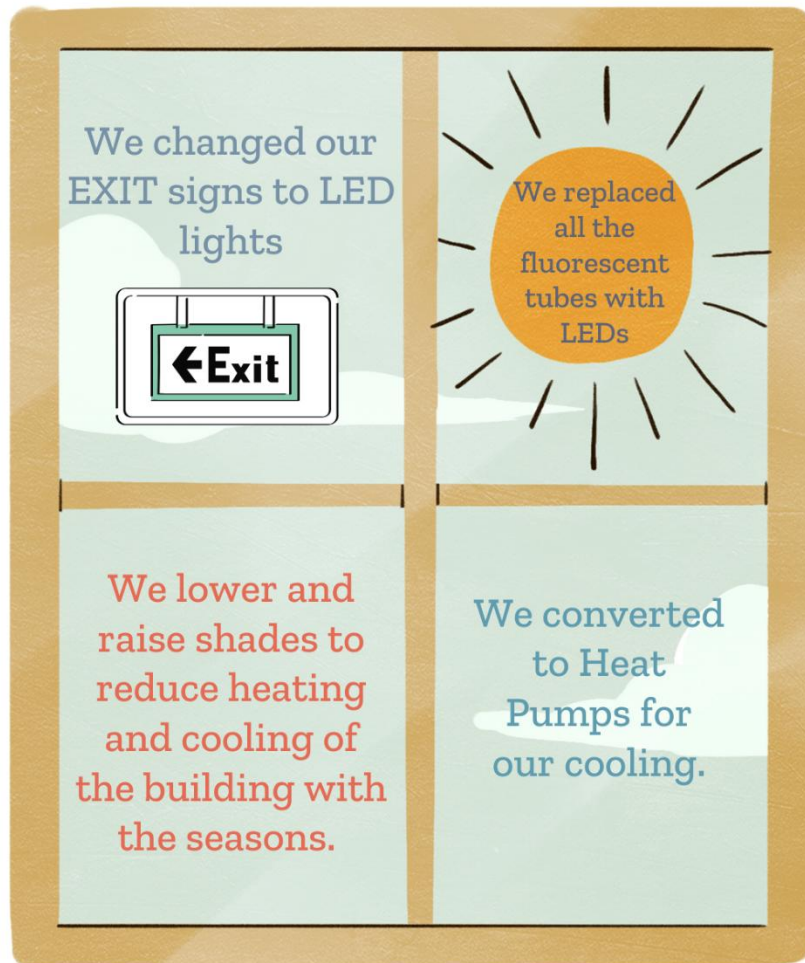


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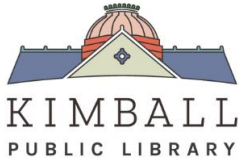
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Other Energy-Saving Practices



To convert your energy usage into concrete terms, visit bit.ly/equivalencies or scan the QR code.





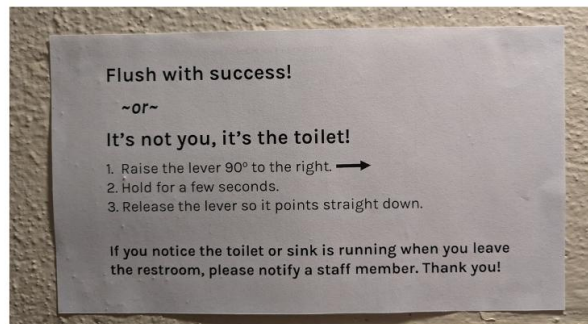
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Water

Have you noticed a sign in the upstairs restroom that looks like this?



We are aware that the upstairs toilet tends to run if the flapper doesn't settle just right.

To address this, we have discussed it with all staff members and posted signage to let you know what to listen for as well! Thanks for helping us reduce our water usage by letting us know if the toilet is running.



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Materials



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

We started with a waste audit to discover how much trash we are producing - it's surprisingly little considering how many patrons and staff use the space!

Then we created signs at the trash and recycling bins to show what Casella does and does not recycle in the single-sort recycling stream.

We've also begun Terracycling - recycling after-school snack wrappers. This has drastically reduced our waste, as snack wrappers were one of the leading items in our trash.



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Materials



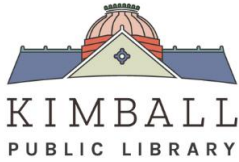
Other things we have done:

Established a purchasing policy based on the Zero-Waste hierarchy and centralized our purchasing. We intentionally incorporate products that contain post-consumer waste (a.k.a. recycled materials)

We reuse materials in our programming, particularly in our crafts, but also in our program incentives.



Via swaps and "Take it, it's free!" we offer back to our community items that are no longer serving a purpose here.



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Collective Impact

Much of our programming happens in part due to our wonderful partners, The White River Craft Center, The Arts Bus, the Randolph Rec Department, and the Chandler Center for the Arts, as well as many individuals in our community who come to us with their wonderful ideas.



Our annual Bike Club is also possible thanks to our wonderful partners: the Randolph Rec Department, Ridgeline Outdoor Collective, and Randolph Bike+Walk+Roll





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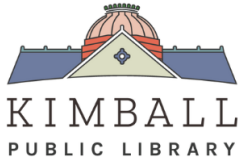
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Collective Impact

As in a previous section, a big focus has been establishing the Community Fridge and Pantry in partnership with the area youth. The Community Fridge and Pantry are open 24/7 under the awning at our side door for anyone to use.

A special thank you to the individuals and businesses who donate to our Fridge & Pantry for their ongoing support, as it is completely donation-based.

We partner with local organizations to offer Repair Fairs to our communities. At these repair fairs, people volunteer their time and skills to help you reduce waste by repairing things that are still useful. In 2024, we collaborated with the League of Women Voters to bring voter registration opportunities to VTSU.



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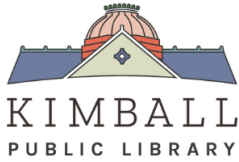
Social Cohesion

One of our tasks is assessing our programming to see if what we are offering is the right fit for our community.

We continue to seek community feedback on the programs we are offering. We have hosted several listening sessions with teens, as well as indirect forms of feedback through surveys and chatboards, and always invite individual feedback.



Then we try to incorporate your feedback into what we are offering!



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Here are a few of the many programs that have come about from community input



- **Dungeons and Dragons**
- Magic the Gathering, currently led by Eric, a library patron
- Cosplay, codesigned with a youth patron
- **Snowshoe hikes co-led with patrons**
- **Plant and Seed swap days**
- Pokémon trading card days
- Our Community Fridge and Pantry, developed out of conversations with teens



You can find more about teen-centered programming by visiting KimballLibrary.org/Youth-Initiative, or following the QR code.





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Collections



The Library's collections are always changing! New books are published, old books are no longer in demand, and staff make decisions about what to add, keep, and rehome.

Our policy says, "The Library strives to build a collection representing multiple points of view that reflect the community's diverse people and history, including a diversity of race, ethnicity, sex, gender



identity, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, and political beliefs and a diversity of authors, creators, and media. The Library's collections reflect a commitment to intellectual freedom."



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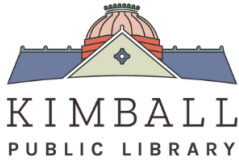
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What has been most surprising for us is:

How much we were already doing - especially in regard to environmental impact. And also how challenging some of the action items are.

When we conducted our trash audit, I was surprised at the amount of trash that the Library produced. It wasn't that much, certainly less than I expected.

I was excited to find that social systems and community connections were a key component of the certification.



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What we are most looking forward to:

I love love love how many great ideas all of us contribute to the process - I learn so much from my colleagues. We all have different takes on how to accomplish the action items, and it feels like a nice blend of "do the bare minimum to check it off" to "we are going to CRUSH this!"

As we work on the purchasing policy, I look forward to a list of businesses to source materials from. Are there better, local options than what we currently use?

Continuing to strengthen the connections we already have, and offering our resources to strengthen the community!

Seeing the completed Certificate!