# The Good, the Bad, the Green How Sustainable is Your Library?

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GOOD NEWS! Libraries are, by their very nature, inherently "green." They are all about sharing resources, eliminating the need to duplicate them for everybody. BUT... we do use a lot of resources, particularly paper and electricity.

# Resources Libraries Use

ncrease. Likewise, for verything stored "in the eing used... somewhere.



Lights: Obviously we need these. But can fixtures or bulbs be modernized to

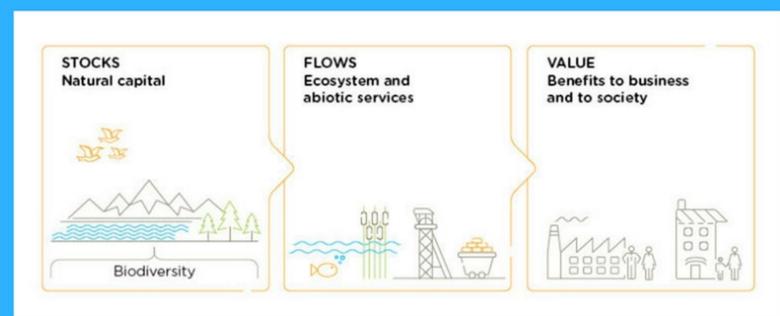
Water: For landscaping and oilets, consider a catchment system.



As information professionals, "a lot" is a very unsatisfying answer. We like detailed numbers! How can we get accurate data about how much energy/water/paper we consume? INTRODUCING...

## The Natural Capital Protocol

a way to measure impacts and dependencies on natural resources



www.naturalcapitalcoalition.org

- Natural capital is one of the commonly recognized forms of capital. Others include financial, intellectual, and social capital.
- The Protocol provides a framework for businesses (and non-profits) to analyze their interactions with this crucial form of capital that forms the basis of all wealth on Earth.

# Programming Ideas

#### Passive:

- Expand rubbish bins to include multiple types of recycling
- Seed Share Stations to encourage sharing knowledge of growing food
- Make sure that any energy-generating systems in place at the library are visible, and that information about them is accessible (how many kWh does this produce?)

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#### Active:

- Hosting programs for all ages on sustainability, energy conservation, reuse/recycling, and local food systems
- Create makerspaces centered around creative reuse
- Involve the community in brainstorming how the library can become more sustainable over time

#### References

- Natural Capital Protocol-download for free at:
- www.naturalcapitalcoalition.org/protocol/
- IFLA's Green Library Award 2016: http://www.ifla.org/node/10478
- Kalo leaf background image credit:
- User: Avenue/Wikimedia Commons/CC-BY-SA-3.0 Mahalo to Janet Lam of North Kohala Public Library
  - Want more? Check these out:
- www.greenlibraries.org- A directory of green libraries in North

http://www.ala.org/sustainrt/- ALA's Sustainability Round Table

### Inspiration: IFLA's 2016 Green Library Award



El Pequeño Sol Ecological Library. San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico





### North Kohala Hawaii's Greenest Public Library?

Good "passive" design: Large windows allow for natural lighting in rooms. Cost- very little (high ROI)



Well-meant design: Windmills are really cute. They don't end up providing much of the library's energy needs.

Cost- was it worth it?



Good "active" design: Photo-voltaic panels turn sunlight into energy to power library systems. Catchment tank stores water for flushing toilets. Cost-high, but pays off in the long run.



All photos by author