

# Building Sustainable Partnerships: Libraries as Partners in Creating and Supporting Campus Green Teams



Joan M. Gregory, MLS, AHIP, Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library; Karren E. Nichols, J. Willard Marriott Library; Myron Willson, Sustainability Resource Center

## Green Teams

- Getting campus green teams started seemed like an impossible challenge.
- Successful early implementation of library green teams, inspired the University of Utah Sustainability Resource Center to seek out and partner with the main and health sciences libraries to begin developing a network of green teams.

## Libraries as Sustainability Partners

- Libraries have **connections** with colleges, departments, centers, divisions and units across campus.
- Libraries contribute **collaboration, organizing, and sharing** expertise.
- **Educational opportunities** developed collaboratively with/by the libraries made available campus-wide.
- **Library-hosted gatherings** support collective problem solving, incubate new ideas, and improve information dissemination.
- Libraries serve as **living laboratories** highlighting sustainable practices.

**Recovery Program**

Recovery:	Estimated Weight	Aug '13	Sep '13	Oct '13	Nov '13	Dec '13	Jan '14	Total Weight	Total Savings
Adult	\$ 3.20	537	363	454	500	519	542	\$ 8,507.50	
Infant	\$ 5.38	14	0	5	15	9	22	\$ 349.70	
blood pressure cuff	\$ 2.00	844	568	514	581	516	609	\$ 6,804.00	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1195</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>1173</b>	<b>\$ 16,061.20</b>	
Weight reduction:	Estimated Weight	Aug '13	Sep '13	Oct '13	Nov '13	Dec '13	Jan '14	Total Weight	
Adult	0.503	551	393	458	528	528	564	396	
Infant	0.145	644	568	514	581	516	609	490	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1195</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>1173</b>	<b>892</b>	

## Sustainability Resource Center

- Supports sustainability-related academic programs, curricula, teaching, training, and student-engagement initiatives.
- Promotes the campus as a living sustainable laboratory.
- Facilitates interdisciplinary sustainability research by assisting in procuring funding.
- Community liaison on sustainability.

## Lessons Learned

- Leadership commitment → success!
- One size doesn't fit all. OK to customize!
- Metrics work!
- Ask "Is this sustainable?" Make a plan. If it doesn't work, make a New Plan!
- Incorporate sustainability into existing workflows. MAKE IT EASY!

## Partnerships

- Inspiring new green teams and projects.
- Building new relationships/collaborations.
- Increasing visibility of the libraries and the center - providing new ways to showcase our services and expertise.