

Sustainable Practices at WVML:

- worm compost for staff use (use leachate from the compost to fertilize our plants)
- compostable plates and utensils for events from <http://biodegradablesolutions.com>
- recycle ALL hard and soft plastic, styrofoam, aluminum, electronics, and foil-lined bags
- use YOLO paint (100% acrylic, zero VOC and exceed Green Seal environmental standards) for interior walls
- “energy star” washer for washing used rags (before we used to toss out all used cleaning rags)
- filtered water unit to refill staff water bottles
- circulate energy monitors - we encourage patrons to take home energy monitors to evaluate their usage
- re-use scrap paper in printers and photocopiers for internal print jobs, and cuts up for notes, etc
- reusable plates, utensils and cups for staff personal use and for some events versus the purchase of one time disposable items
- started a “Green Team” who plan and initiate environmentally sustainable practices for the library; as well, our Library Board has a subcommittee called the “Greening Committee”
- reduced the number of refrigerators in the building and replaced the staff room refrigerator with an “energy star” model
- put tea towels in the staff room to use rather than paper towels to dry dishes
- purchase staffroom milk in glass bottles
- low flow toilets
- replaced light bulbs with energy efficient models (LED and CFL)
- turn on minimum number of lights for the 3 hours prior to library opening
- conducted an energy efficiency building assessment
- taken half the fluorescent tubes out of our light fixtures in staff areas to reduce energy
- turn off computers, printers, and scanners in the evening
- *Environment and Sustainability* “Info by Topic” page: http://www.westvanlibrary.ca/index.php?page=59&topic_id=63

Future Goals:

Currently we are pursuing LEED certification for existing buildings, as well as submitting a business case for a workplace bike for staff to use on their breaks, or for short travels to and from the library.