**Resolution to Embed Carbon Offset Fee in Registration Fees for all ALA and Division Event Attendance**

1. Whereas ALA Council adopted Sustainability as an ALA Core Value in January 2019 (ALA CD37, Council Documents 2019 ALA Midwinter Conference)1;

2. Whereas it is recognized2 that conferences/events generate a substantial carbon footprint for in-person events and generate a technology-based carbon footprint for virtual events;

3. Whereas carbon offsets are one way to reduce (by exchange) event-specific carbon emissions and thus address sustainability in conference/event operations;

4. Whereas examples are emerging that demonstrate organizational commitment to mitigating carbon impacts of conference gatherings3, 4;

5. Whereas ALA divisions and units are aware of the need to address the carbon impact of conference gatherings but initiatives are inconsistent (e.g. voluntary offset option and matching funds donated or call to do voluntary offset)5, 6;

4. Whereas the ALA Executive Board implemented a voluntary carbon offset fee for conference attendance beginning with Midwinter 2020 (in-person) and continuing for Annual 2020 (virtual) and Midwinter 2021 (virtual);

5. Whereas there is no guarantee that ALA will continue to offer a voluntary carbon offset program for future ALA event attendance;

6. Whereas continuing to use carbon offsets for event attendance, but on a non-voluntary basis, would be a strong way to demonstrate ALA’s and members’ commitment to sustainability;

Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA) including its Divisions, on behalf of its members

1. shall embed a carbon offset fee (currently set at $4 but subject to change with the reviews noted below) in the event registration fee for all future events;

2. shall choose a 3rd party certified carbon offset project as the recipient of the carbon offset fee funds;

3. shall review the appropriateness of the carbon offset project on a yearly basis (and shall select a new project if needed/desired);

4. shall verify that the carbon offset project remains 3rd party certified on a yearly basis.

**References/Pertinent Background Information**

1. ALA Council, “ALA Council Minutes 2019 ALA Midwinter Meeting Seattle, WA.” American Library Association, January 27, 2019, <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org.aboutala/files/content/ALA%20CD%202.1%20Midwinter%20Minutes_FINAL_0.pdf>
2. McGee, Regina, ”Meetings and Climate Change,” *PCMA Convene* 26 Feburary (2016), <https://www.pcmaconvene.org/features/cmp-series/meetings-and-climate-change/>
3. “Registration Details,” Confluence Gathering, Confluence Philanthropy, Accessed January 15, 2019. <http://web.archive.org/web/20190115214742/http:/www.confluencegathering.org/registration/>
4. “Registration,” Birds Caribbean Conference 2019, Birds Caribbean, Accessed December 17, 2020, <https://sites.google.com/site/birdscaribbeanconference2019/home>
5. “Sustainability,” ACRL 2021, Association of College and Research Libraries, Accessed December 17, 2020, <https://conference.acrl.org/registration/sustainability/>
6. Hutchens, Kate, “Carbon Offsets and RBMS Conference Travel,” RBMS 2019, ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, http://conference.rbms.info/2019/2019/04/10/carbon-offsets-and-rbms-conference-travel/

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SustainRT (12/17/2020)

SRRT (in principle)

**Councilors Who Also Second Resolution**

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