

Think global, act local

Most local governments in Australia place a strong emphasis on sustainability but few as yet make the direct connection between what they are doing at the local level and the Sustainable Development Goals of the world's 2030 Agenda.

There is an easy three-step way to help your council be one of the first to make this leap.

Step 1 include the Sustainable Development Goals in your library service's strategic plan, as part of the main body of the document, as an addition to the existing document, or as a standalone policy.

These are some words you might consider using as the basis for your statement.

We are part of the global drive towards social, economic and environmental goals

[Name of library service] is contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, endorsed by the United Nations' 193 member countries, by ensuring that:

- there is free public access to information in print and online;
- there is free public access to computers;
- there is support for early literacy and lifelong learning, and
- items of cultural heritage are accessible today and are preserved for future generations.

We also provide:

- information and training in new skills needed for education and employment;
- public access to health and wellness information that helps individuals and families stay healthy;
- safe, welcoming and inclusive spaces for meetings, study, group activities and personal relaxation, and
- high speed internet connectivity.

We suggest that you link your statement to [this resource from IFLA](#)¹ (see over), which sets out each of the 17 Goals and how libraries contribute to the targets. For example, you might print out an A2 or A3 poster (landscape), with your statement and branding on one half of the page and the IFLA graphic on the other.

There are further logos and graphic resources on the [United Nations website](#)².

¹ <https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/hq/topics/libraries-development/documents/ifla-poster-sdgs.pdf>

² <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

LIBRARIES CAN DRIVE PROGRESS ACROSS THE ENTIRE UN 2030 AGENDA



IFLA
The United global voice of the library and information profession worldwide.
The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access to information and resources that give people opportunities to improve their lives Training in new skills needed for education and employment Information to support decision-making by governments 	<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural research and data on how to make crops more productive and sustainable Public access for farmers to on-line resources like local market prices, weather reports, and new equipment
<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research available in medical and hospital libraries that supports education and improves medical practice for health care providers Public access to health and wellness information in public libraries that helps individuals and families stay healthy 	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated staff who support early literacy and lifelong learning Access to information and research for students everywhere Inclusive spaces where cost is not a barrier to new knowledge
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	<p>ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe and welcoming meeting spaces Programmes and services designed to meet the needs of women and girls, literacy and health Access to information and ICT that helps women build business skills 	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> <p>ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL</p> <p>ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL</p>
<p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	<p>PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to information and skills training that people need to find, apply for, and succeed in better jobs 	<p>Libraries support these goals by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to quality information and good practices that support local water management and sanitation services Free and reliable access to electricity and light to read, study, and work 	
<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	<p>BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide spread existing infrastructure of public and research libraries and skilled library professionals Welcoming and inclusive public spaces Access to ICT like high speed internet that may not be available anywhere else 	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	<p>REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neutral and welcoming spaces that make learning accessible to all, including marginalized groups like migrants, refugees, minorities, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities Equitable access to information that supports social, political, and economic inclusion
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trusted institutions devoted to promoting cultural inclusion and understanding Documentation and preservation of cultural heritage for future generations 	<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p> <p>ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS</p> <p>TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS</p> <p>CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p>
<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access to information about government, civil society, and other institutions Training in the skills needed to understand and use this information 	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p> <p>PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS</p>
<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	<p>STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Libraries support this goal by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global network of community-based institutions, primed to support local 	<p>Libraries support these goals by providing...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable systems of sharing and circulating materials that reduces waste Historical records about coastal change and use Research and data needed to inform climate change policy Widespread access to information needed to guide decision-making by local and national governments on topics like hunting, fishing, and use, and water management 	

For more information, see www.ifla.org/libraries-development

Step 2 Share your statement with the council executive.

This is a good opportunity to showcase how libraries work together nationally and internationally to the benefit of their communities.

There is plenty of [information available from IFLA](#)³ to help you familiarise yourself with libraries and the Sustainable Development Goals worldwide. There is also a summary of the information on the [ALIA website](#)⁴.

³ <https://start.me/p/ZMXJQn/libraries-and-the-un-2030-agenda>

Step 3 If your council has not done so already, ask your council executive to consider making a broader statement about its support for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Most councils already talk about sustainability and are working towards more efficient use of public transport, eco-friendly planning and development, reduced energy consumption, recycling and reduction of household waste, and so on.

The Sustainable Development Goals provide the opportunity to link these local initiatives to a global imperative. If you were to write to the senior team, you might consider something along these lines.

To the Council Executive

Libraries have been closely involved with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at a national and international level. For example, our peak body, the Australian Library and Information Association, is organising the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Goals Summit for library and information professionals on the Gold Coast in 2018.

At a local level, we have linked the services we already offer our residents to the Sustainable Development Goals, to show how well council is delivering against the public access to information, culture and information technology targets. *(Include your statement.)*

The Sustainable Development Goals provide an excellent opportunity to link the achievements we have made locally with this major global drive towards better social, economic and environmental outcomes for everyone.

We would like to propose that council consider making a policy statement or including a form of words in its next strategic plan to make an explicit link between our sustainability initiatives and the world's 2030 Agenda.

ALIA is collating information for the federal government about how libraries are adopting the Sustainable Development Goals. Please be sure to tell us if you are including the SDGs in your strategic plan (Step 1) and if you plan to progress the conversation with your council (Steps 2 and 3). Just drop a short email to advocacy@alia.org.au or fill in the quick survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LibrariesSDGs>.

Please let us know if you are willing to participate in further initiatives relating to the SDGs. Send your contact details to advocacy@alia.org.au.

⁴ <https://www.alia.org.au/advocacy-and-campaigns/think-global-act-local>