

## **SR-SIS Committee on Environmental Sustainability meeting March 23, 2017**

David provided a summary of his conversation with Director Hagan & education coordinator Ron Wheeler regarding AALL conference travel offsets. The Director's response was to make offsets voluntary, which was offered to AALL members a few years in the past & resulted in 30 – 35 people engaging in the program. It appears that Hagan would be supportive of more AALL marketing for the offset program than happened last time.

Catherine said she thought that we should try the voluntary offset option again, since this is an issue that may be in more people's minds now & the additional marketing support from AALL is likely to help spread the word.

Matthew agreed, and added that he has already drafted an article for his chapter newsletter, which others in other chapters may be able to do too. He suggested that this type of wide-spread marketing could help make a voluntary program a success.

Catherine asked about carbon calculators for the average consumption in travelling to the meeting from destinations in various chapters.

David also suggested alternative means of engaging with people, beyond just introducing the concept of carbon offset. He suggested that some people might respond more strongly to images or the human aspect of projects like cook stoves.

David raised the idea of contacting a vendor for financial support, and said that he has contacted Hagan about this, to see if we would be allowed to contact vendors directly. He is waiting for a response, which he will circulate to the group.

David next raised the idea of bringing this issue to the board. So far it has only been shared with Wheeler, and David suggested asking him to weigh in, or offer that a representative of the committee could discuss this at a board meeting.

Matthew agreed that this sounded reasonable and worth pursuing.

David pointed out that we could suggest a gradual implementation over several years, adding a dollar to the conference fee to offset travel each year until we reach the full amount necessary.

Catherine agreed that this is a good idea.

Stephan pointed out that the board may have ideas for us as well.

David provided an update on the August webinar project, which he is coordinating with a consultant. He will circulate more information about this as plans come together.

### **Actions:**

David will contact Wheeler regarding discussions with the board (perhaps for the July meeting?)

David will create & circulate an outline for the voluntary offset project. He will send this to the group for others to volunteer for various tasks which may include: marketing, branding, selecting an offset provider (needs to be 3<sup>rd</sup> party certified), considering mechanisms for donations, etc.

David will circulate Hagan's response to the idea of having a vendor sponsor conference carbon offset & the group will discuss.

Everyone will continue to share ideas for other projects of interest. This may be beyond the scope of carbon, perhaps things like developing additional guides for libraries on topics like reducing paper use or energy star services, depending on the interests and priorities of various committee members.

**Submitted by: Erin Gow** — Online Services Librarian, University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law Library. Slight edits by David Selden, Chair.