Climate Action Plan for the Rose Library
Statement of Action

The staff of the Rose Library have a commitment to the health of our local and global community and envision our lives as part of the natural environment. Our core values[1] to "Steward cultural heritage resources by contributing to sustainable, shared and distributed models" and "ethically and responsibly collect and steward resources of value" implies that we in Rose strive for healthy living and working conditions that aim to avoid harmful outcomes. In line with these values is a commitment to reducing the Rose Library's impact on climate change and prioritizing sustainable choices and culture. The themes of preservation and posterity rest at the heart of our organizational purpose, and the service of these goals requires attentiveness to climate change action.

Climate change has emerged as one of the greatest challenges to humanity and the natural environment. The actions of humans have had an enormous impact on the functioning of the world, lifting average global temperatures at rapid rates, prompting mass extinctions of plant and animal species. Our activities as individuals and representative institutions directly affect our environment in several ways. The Rose Library sets forth the following goals.

The objective of this Climate Action Plan is to establish a roadmap for the Rose Library to integrate sustainability goals and choices as standard workplace practice. We aim to connect the Rose Library with the University's Climate Action initiatives and outline how the Rose Library can change internal practices to align with sustainability goals. Specifically, we aim to reduce emissions and waste, promote climate resilience as part of workplace operations, and integrate sustainability as a factor in planning and decision making. This plan outlines the Rose Library's broad sustainability targets and highlights specific areas for action that will help the RL reach those targets.

The Rose Library's Sustainability Committee will work with the Emory Office of Sustainability and others to estimate the impact and feasibility of initiatives. The individual projects are determined and overseen by the Sustainability Committee.

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[1] Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Mission Statement. August 15, 2022.
https://libraries.emory.edu/rose/about/about-us/our-mission

Overview of Active and Proposed Projects:
(For further details please see the Sustainability Committee's individual projects here)

Rose Library Greenhouse Gas Emissions:
Develop an estimated assessment of current gross CO_2 emissions from the Rose Library. We aim to align with Emory University's 2013 Climate Action Plan and any future revisions. The current targets as of 2021 are as follows:

By 2020: 20% reduction in total emissions, 35% reduction per square foot
By 2036: 36% reduction in total emissions, 50% reduction per square foot
By 2050: 50% reduction in total emissions, 85% reduction per square foot

- Assess energy use/carbon emissions for the Rose Library, including building operations, computing/printing, collection management (physical and digital), and materials used in acquisition and processing.
- Calculate energy use/carbon emissions related to staff commuting:
    - Distance commuted
    - Number of days commuted per week
    - Mode and efficiency of transportation

Rose Library Operations:
Green Purchasing Plan:
- Establish a sustainable purchasing plan that includes comparative options for each purchase.

Travel and Freight Purchasing:
- Identify procedures to reduce the frequency of air travel when possible.
- Establish a carbon offset budget for necessary travel and supply/collection freight.

Collection Management:
- Launch sustainability and climate change as a collection area, holding that these resources are valuable for posterity and in documenting the role of sustainability at Emory University.
    - Includes documenting Emory University's history of sustainability programs and initiatives and items of note in the surrounding Atlanta community/U.S. south.
- Assess the energy and climate impact of our digital infrastructure, digital acquisitions, collection digitization, and other digital projects, and creating criteria to integrate sustainability concerns in future choices related to digital collections and systems.
- Develop a reappraisal plan to assess digital and analog collections and reduce energy expenditures on material that do not support the Rose Library's mission and have little research value.

Climate Resilience:
Assess RL plans for climate impact and disaster emergency.
- Work with stakeholders to develop a working COOP
- Create more practical disaster planning and review through active/regular testing

Sustainable Community:

Promote sustainability among the staff and the Rose Library's broader community.

- Align with climate justice initiatives. (in-process, expand)
- Promote sustainability work in conjunction/collaboration with collection-based events
- Ensure that all events follow Emory University's Zero Waste checklist