

SUSTAINABLE WALLINGFORD TOOL LIBRARY

Community meetings to date 2011: 2/3/11, 6/9/11, 9/12/11. In **2012:** 1/11/12, 2/1/12, and 2/22/12
The group decided that the primary reason for a tool library was to build community. Therefore every activity, service and program will be evaluated by the degree to which it helps build community. If this effort results in only providing a tool lending function with nothing else, there is no point in proceeding.

What is a Tool Library?

Tool Libraries share tools in community. In the process, they also build community, save resources, provide an opportunity for lifetime learning and can help build local economy. Tool Libraries appeal to multiple cultures. Children and family enjoy learning together. Elders can share skills, and can be a great way to engage single, isolated, under-represented communities.

What sorts of tools? (Sustainable Communities choose hand or electrically powered. No gas)

Garden, construction, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, woodworking, food preservation, party & meeting (tents, dishes, chairs), health aids, arts & crafts, musical instruments, brewing, culturally unique methods of working (ikebana, injera frypan), baking, knitting, sewing, bike repair, beekeeping, candle making, and more!

Why is Sustainable Wallingford supporting a Tool Library?

***Cooperative community sharing.** Yes you can own tools and rent tools, but there are great reasons to share tools. Top of the list is a chance to build a cooperative sharing culture with your neighbors.

***Environmentally friendly.** Tools represent resources. Resources used in their manufacturing, shipping, and storing. Sharing tools meets Zero Waste, Low Carbon goals of Seattle and you don't need to store a houseful of tools. The average power drill is used for 12 minutes reports Rachel Botsman in "What's Mine Is Yours: The Rise of Collaborative Consumption."

***Lifetime learning.** Tools in a Tool Library do not need to be only garden and home repair tools. Consider the variety of food production tools you may store and use infrequently: dehydrator, fondue set, ice-cream maker. Suddenly tools become the basis of teaching skills, classes, family education. Communities can share not only the tools, but the know-how of using them effectively.

***Entry level job incubator.** Local Tool Libraries in Sustainable Communities are finding it is a small step from learning skills to entry level jobs: a lawn mower and weed whacker that a high school student can use for yard work, dishes and cutlery that can be checked out for a community kitchen group that wants to cater parties, weather sealing tools for helping neighbors retrofit their homes.

Immediate needs of the Wallingford Tool Library

Hire staff to survey community (particularly underserved communities of renters, seniors, youth, low income, Latino). Hire staff to adapt web-based inventory and check-out system. Determine rental space for storage and classes. Meet and discuss legal and liability issues and fiscal sponsorship. Staff for volunteer management, outreach, recruitment, keeping tool library open, scheduling classes

Future near-term development Skills Fair. Outreach and branding. Specialized tool purchases (such as food preservation equipment). Tool maintenance. Tool Donation Drive. Build sharing mechanisms with other Tool Libraries. Tool Library Mobile. Expand workshops with job skills and directory.

Partnerships Community Preparedness, Meaningful Movies, Community Kitchens, Senior Center, Seattle Works / Wallingford Works, Wallingford Chamber, Seattle Tilth, Solid Ground, Lettuce Link, Wallingford Library, Schools and Religious institutions, Farmer's Market, Local Businesses

Classes with Sustainable Wallingford Energy retrofits, community preparedness search and rescue, water catchment, gardening, food preservation, community kitchens, Wallingford Works!