

# SAMMEN OM ♥ERDENSMÅL



# Libraries as platform for citizen involvement and sustainability

VELUX FONDEN



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**UNITED TO REACH  
THE GLOBAL GOALS**



# The Think Tank Future Libraries and The Danish Library Association





**Who can join the project?**





## **Sustainable societies require co-creation**

- We must collaborate to achieve a climate-neutral society





## **How do we translate sustainable goals and climate issues into a library context?**

We've recognized the importance of making the SDGs and climate issues more practical, as they might appear abstract and distant to many.

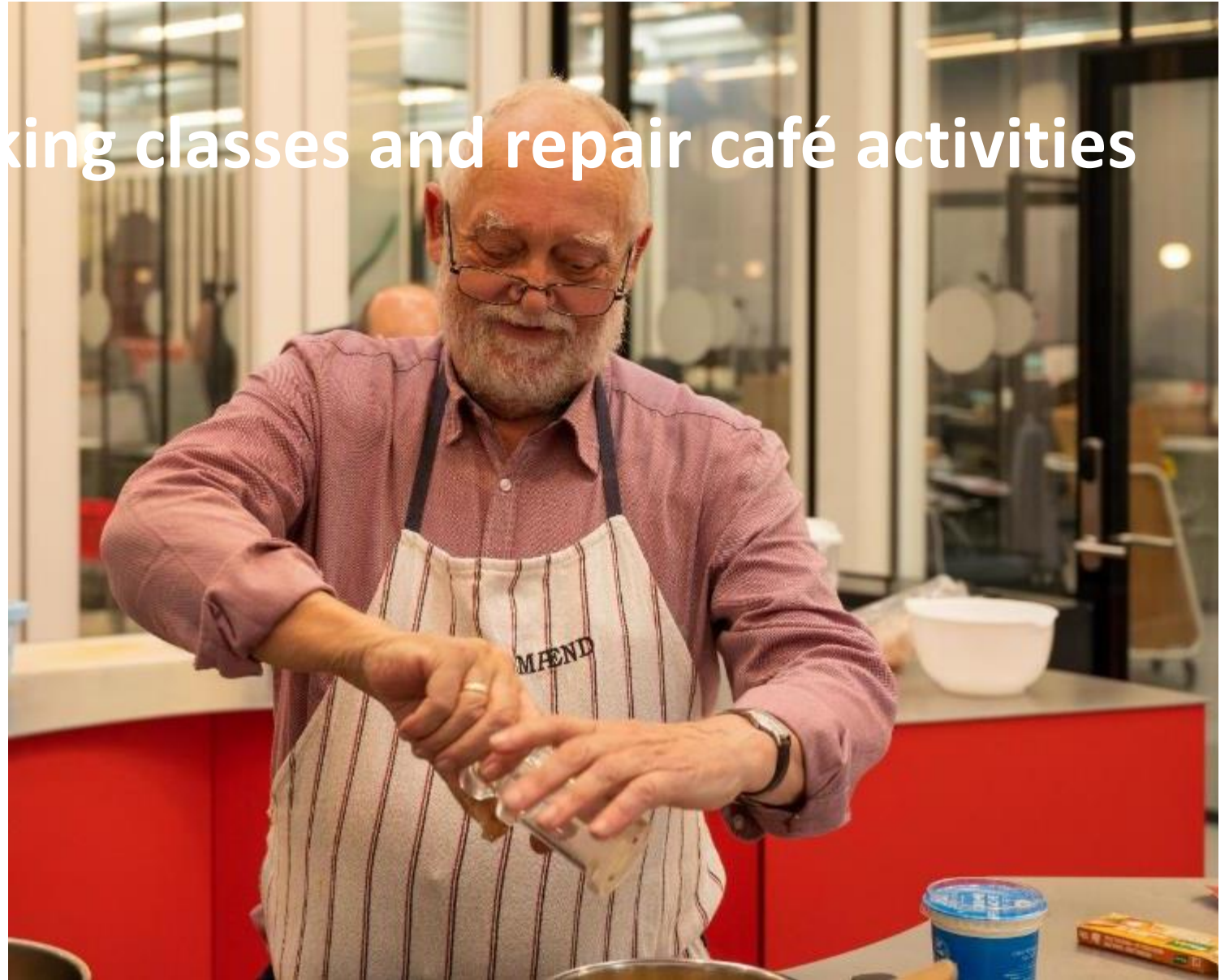


# Repair Café and Upcycling Workshops





# Climate friendly cooking classes and repair café activities





# The travelling team

To scale the effort and to inspire even more libraries and citizens to contribute to the SDGs, we have trained a travelling team that acts as ambassadors.



# Why do we have a travelling team?

- We can motivate others to leave the couch
- Many are unaware of the ways they can bring about change
- There is a need for inspiring stories that motivate people to take action
- It is meaningful to act together with others









# Nature-connectedness

- Nature-connectedness refers to the degree to which an individual feels connected to, appreciates, and has a sense of belonging to the natural world.
- Research shows that a sense of nature connectedness is linked to higher personal well-being and a greater degree of environmentally sustainable behavior.
- People with high nature-connectedness often have a greater concern for environmental issues and are more likely to engage in pro-environmental behaviors.







**How can we integrate nature into our activities?**





*"It's also really nice for a child to be part of planting trees, so they can stop and say: Hey, I helped plant those trees."*





Local community activities that contribute to the SDGs

- Repair of electronics and other consumer goods
- Redesign of clothes and sewing tote bags to replace plastic bags
- Workshops focusing on sustainability and climate issues
- Exchange and flea markets: clothing swaps and plant and seed swaps
- Planting and grafting trees,
- Transforming the library's front lawn into a wildflower meadow
- Book exchange and sustainable book sales
- Pre-sow plants and making seed bombs workshops
- Climate-friendly communal dining
- Cooking classes with focus on food-waste
- Reading groups focusing on literature related to the surrounding environment
- Nature excursions with nature guides
- Collaboration on outdoor activities like "Keeping the Brain Fresh" and "Move for Life"
- We have a visiting program where volunteers visit lonely elderly people
- Collaboration with the municipality on waste sorting, recycling, and reuse etc.



# What have we achieved so far?

- 36 libraries have joined the project and several hundreds citizens are still active
- 2-3 employees from each library are trained and involved in various sustainable and community-creating activities
- All the libraries are still working with the SDGs, and they have gained many new partners
- We have brought people together in new and sustainable groups, which at the same time strengthen the well-being of citizens through making a difference with others
- The impact evaluation indicates that participants have increased their well-being by participating in sustainable community activities





**Sustainability  
psychology and  
regenerative  
well-being**





# Greater well-being when engaging community activities

- The project has led to regenerative well-being as participants contribute to something that benefits both people and the planet.



# Three Strategies to Boost Well-being and Motivation

1. Encourage motivation and well-being by focusing on people's basic psychological needs.
2. Offer practical ways for participants to actively support sustainability.
3. Incorporate nature into activities to strengthen participants' bond with nature.





# Podcast, handbooks and an impact evaluation





# My favorite people and true heroes

Impressive speeches and strategies that are not followed up by action cannot prevent the global warming or natural disasters we are facing.

That is why thousands of grandparents and other climate activists work tirelessly and with great enthusiasm on this agenda.

Foto: **Grandparents' Climate Action** assembled at the Climate Folk Meeting, DK2023







Jorden klarar sig  
utan oss  
människor

Men vi människor

klarar oss inte  
utan jorden

Fortunately, you haven't given up; you're not passively waiting for politicians to act. Your wealth of experience and skills are invaluable assets as we navigate the green transition in our societies.

Gretas Gamlinger is active even on small islands in Sweden.



## **Seniors may be the most overlooked and valuable population group**

- Why should you be the ones knocking on politicians' doors? It should be the politicians knocking on your doors because you are the most crucial group in driving the green transition. You play an essential role in leading the way in climate engagement and demonstrating sustainable living to others.
- We should give greater recognition to your contributions to the green agenda and seek broader approval for your efforts.





**Thank you for paying attention**

For more information, please visit [www.sammenomverdensmaal.dk](http://www.sammenomverdensmaal.dk)

Or write an email at [kgh@fremtidensbiblioteker.dk](mailto:kgh@fremtidensbiblioteker.dk)

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