Copiague Memorial Public Library

## A commitment to the future

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Presentation

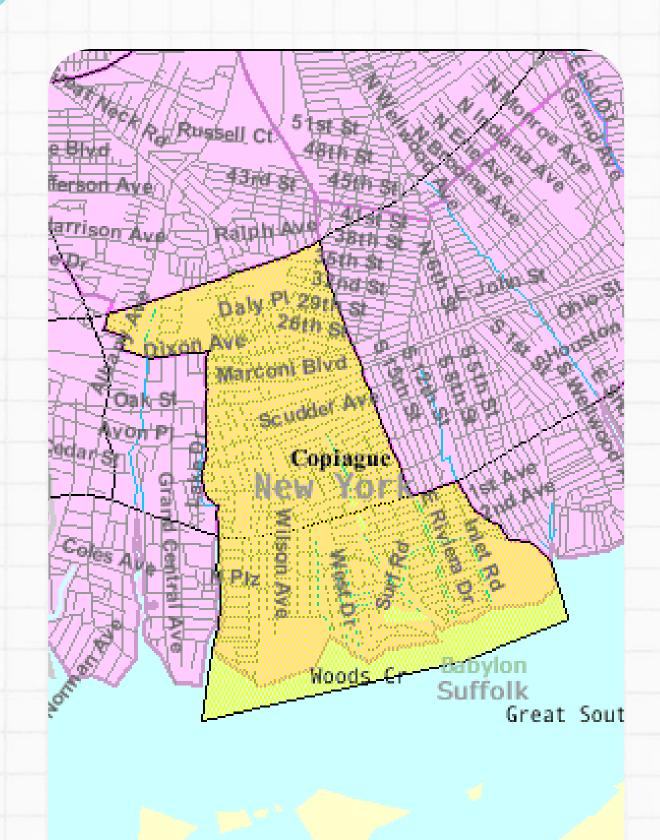


## About The Library

Copiague is a waterfront community located on the south shore of Long Island, NY.

The mission of the Copiague Memorial Public Library is to create lifelong learning opportunities for all members of the community.

The Library serves 33,184 residents of the Copiague School District.





### A commitment to the future

The Copiague Memorial Public Library recognizes its role in fostering education and awareness within the community by promoting ideas, services and projects that are environmentally sound and socially aware.

In 2021, the Library decided to pursue certification through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative.

In 2022, the Library adopted a formal Sustainability Policy.

In 2023, the Library completed the Sustainable Libraries Initiative action item form.



#### **Sustainability Policy**

The Copiague Memorial Public Library recognizes its role in fostering education and awareness within the community by promoting ideas, services and projects that are environmentally sound and socially aware. It is the recognition of this role and the commitment by the Library Board of Trustees, Administration and Staff to develop, implement and adhere to policies and procedures that promote the "triple bottom line" of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative: practices that are environmentally sound, economically feasible and socially equitable. The Library is committed to examining all facets of its operations in order to promote sustainable practices that lead to reducing its carbon footprint and minimize its environmental impact. Reducing waste and energy consumption, conserving water, supporting renewable energy sources, and purchasing environmentally friendly products are some of the ways the Library seeks to achieve its sustainability goals. Employee involvement is crucial in promoting this initiative, and Library staff will be updated on our efforts and encouraged to participate on an ongoing basis. Our efforts will extend to contractors and suppliers used by the Library and will be shared with community organizations the Library partners with to encourage their own practices. By engaging in this initiative and certification program, the Library seeks to promote a sustainable, resilient and equitable community for all Copiague residents.

#### Outdoor Spaces

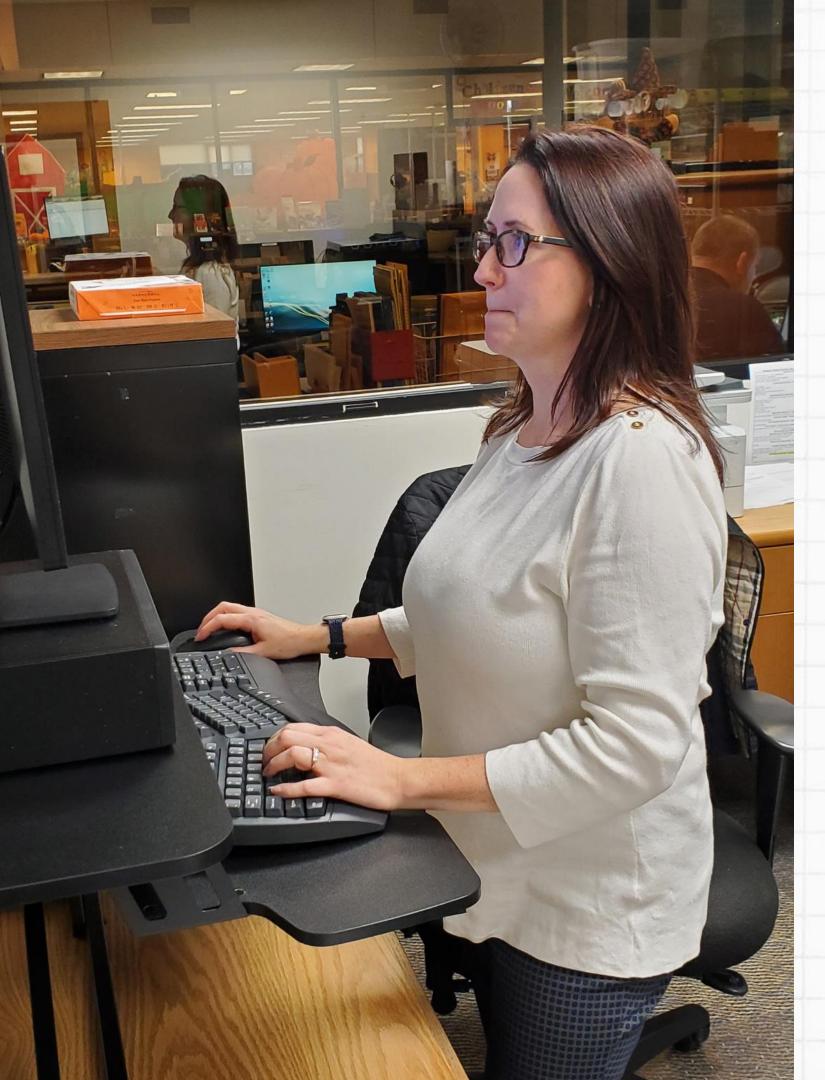
Eliminated or reduced the use of herbicides and pesticides on Library grounds

Replaced over 1300 square feet of lawn with two native plant gardens and a pollinator flower garden

Designated an unused 26' x 45' parcel of lawn on the south side of the building as a "no mow" area

Planted two native black pine trees to provide shelter and cover for wildlife and pollinators.





#### Indoor Spaces

Replaced aerosol products with pump dispensers

Placed peace lilies, snake plants and indoor pines in public and staff areas to improve indoor air quality

Added screens to windows and doors to provide increased natural ventilation for patrons and staff

Planted a vegetable garden in 2023 and donated produce to local panties and community based organizations

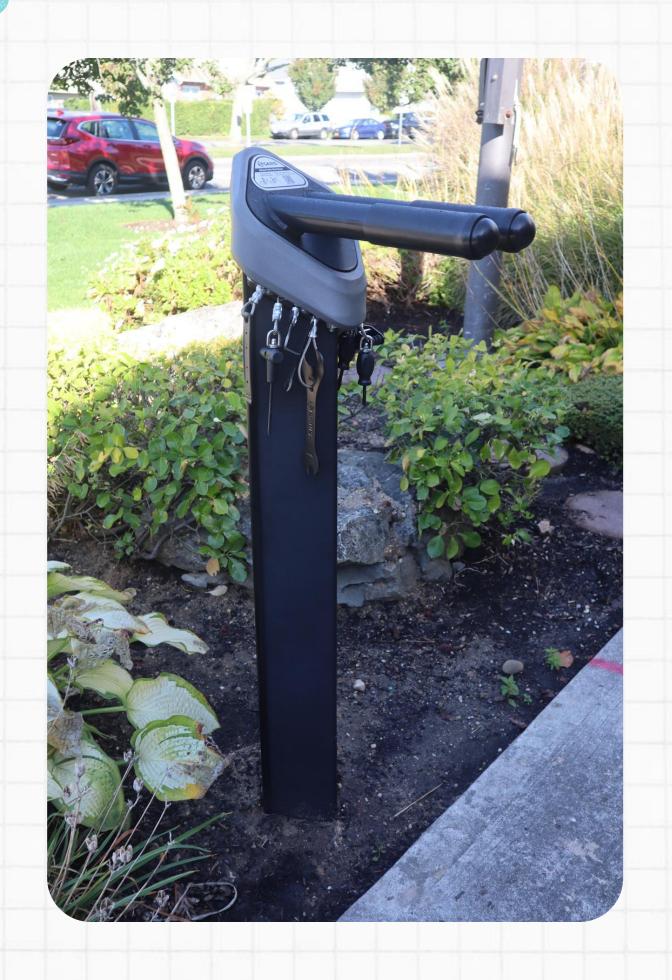
Created flexible desktop sitting/standing workstations to help alleviate the physical ailments associated with prolonged sitting and inactivity.

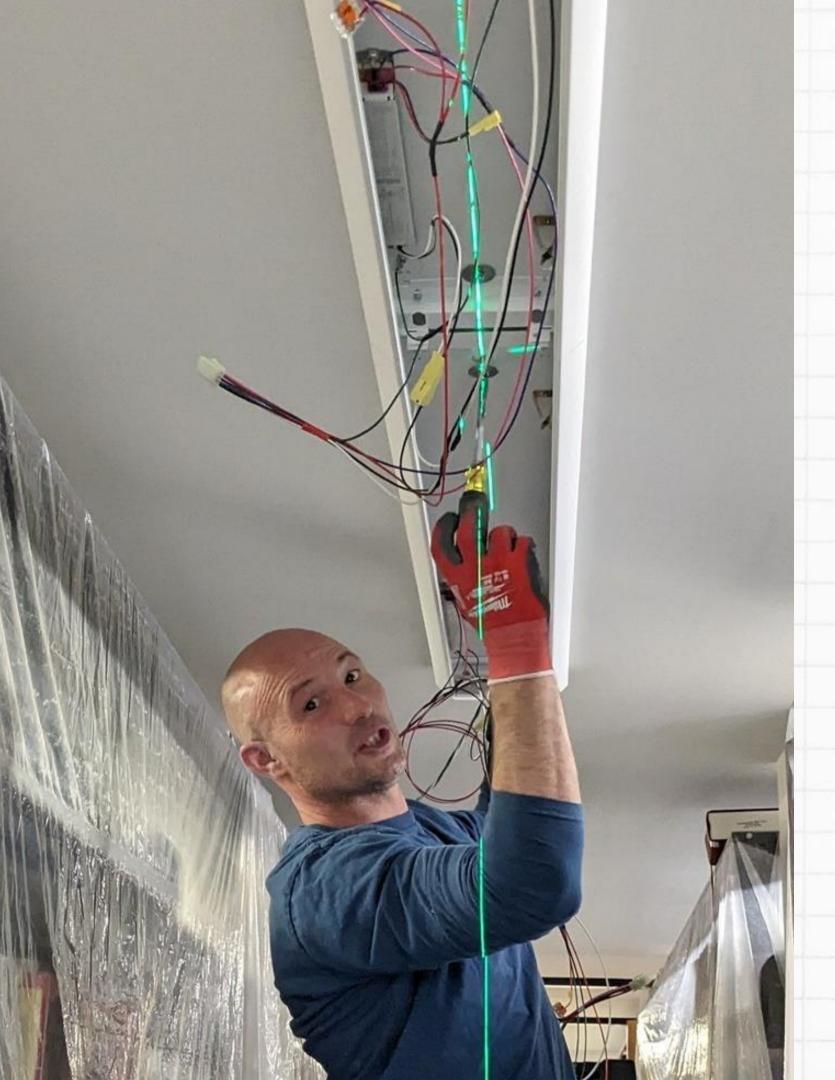
#### Transportation

Provided a bike rack and repair station in the front of the library for patron and staff use

Partnered with 511 to promote public transportation, ride sharing programs, carpooling and car share programs to the community

Adopted a telecommuting policy and encouraged the use of attending meetings and professional development virtually whenever possible





#### Energy

Evaluated CO2 emissions equivalent of the library's electricity consumption

Created signage to remind staff to turn off lights when leaving rooms without occupancy sensors

Installed occupancy sensors in mezzanine meeting rooms, public restrooms and passport office

Replaced full service cafe with Energy Star rated vending machines

Upgraded lighting from fluorescent lamps to LED lighting in multiple areas

Established routine maintenance schedule of HVAC equipment

#### Water

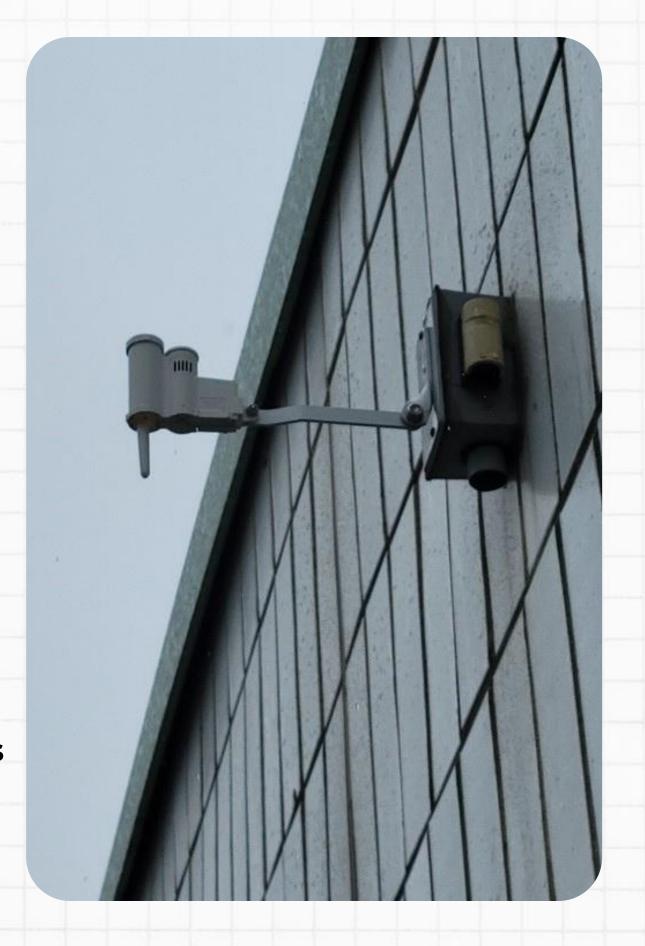
Conducted a water assessment and evaluated water bills for usage

Installed water efficient toilet flush handles

Adjusted hot water heater thermostat from 140 degrees to 120 degrees

Hot water heater is energy efficient and pipes are insulated

Outdoor irrigation system rain sensor automatically shuts system off during precipitation





#### Materials

Unsubscribed from unwanted catalogs and marketing mailers

Printer and copier default settings changed to two-sided printing

Installed water bottle refill station and eliminated single use plastic water bottles in library programs

Patrons now have the option to receive their due date notices via email rather than have it printed at checkout

Fully inventoried all office, cleaning, program and technical services supplies

#### Collective Impact

Partnered with League of Women Voters to host a National Voter Registration Day event

Partnered with Island Harvest to become a pick up site for their Senior Nutrition monthly food distribution

Participated in the Long Island Family Festival

Partnered with the Department of Veterans
Affairs to have a Veteran Outreach Program
Specialist come onsite monthly





#### Social Cohesion

Offered staff a 6 part series on Social Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion through Suffolk Cooperative Library System

Offered diverse programs for all age groups including Citizenship Classes, Mujures Unidas, Bi-lingual Mother Goose, cooking programs highlighting multiple cultures, and more

Completed the Programming and Services checklists found in the Inclusive Services Assessment and Guide

Ongoing participation in the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offered through BOCES which provides free and confidential assessments, short-term counseling, referrals, and follow-up services for employees.

#### Resilience Planning

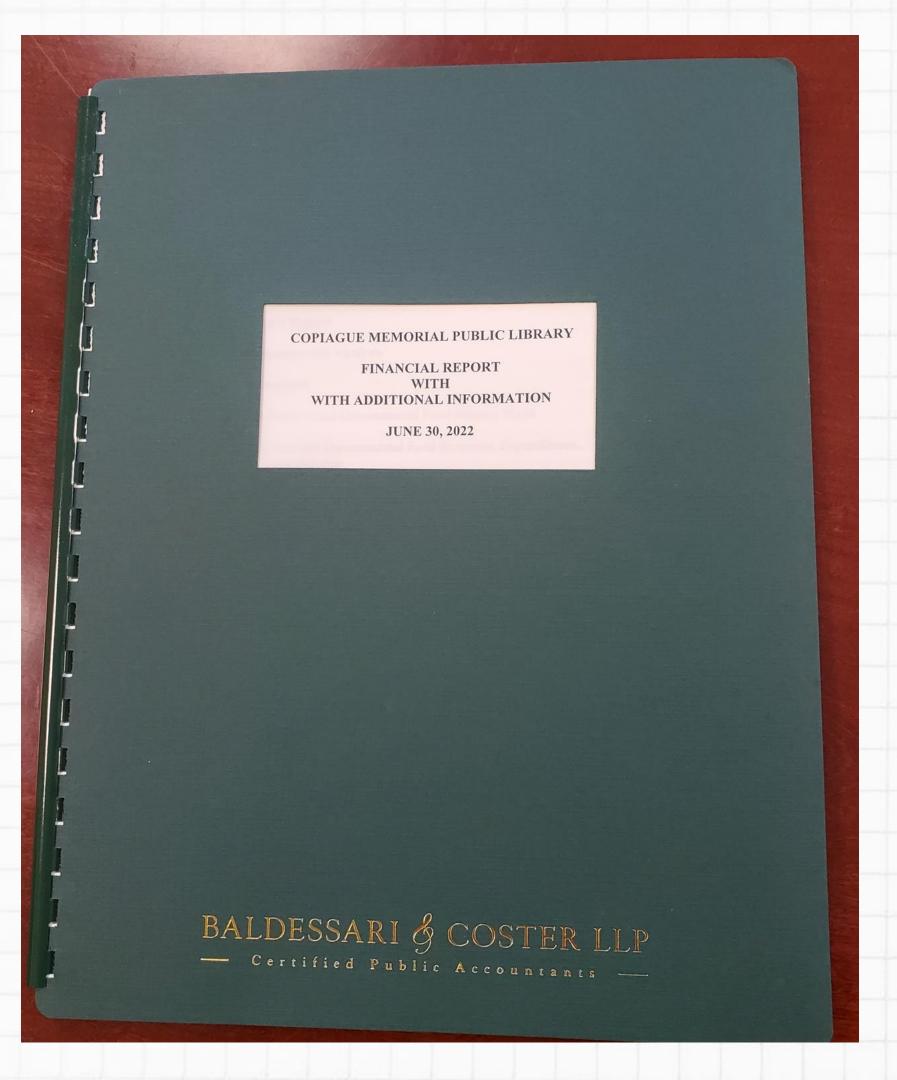
Updated the Library's Emergency Procedures and Disaster Plan

Provided a robust slate of programming that focuses on environmental sustainability issues specific to both the Copiague and greater Long Island community

**Hosted a Repair Cafe** 

Designated as a cooling center during extreme heat events





## Fiscal Sustainability

Analyzed financial position on a regular basis and had annual independent audit from outside firm which includes a report and analysis of the Library's finances and internal controls

Ongoing opportunity for staff to obtain health care insurance through NYSHIP

Ongoing participation in the New York Retirement System and provided opportunity for staff to enroll in a a 403(b) plan

Offered staff wages higher than both minimum wage and living wage

Checkout receipts show how much money patrons have saved by using the library

#### Collections

**Updated Collection Development Policy** 

Continued to develop collections in languages other than English spoken in community

Used electronic sources to evaluate items for purchase and transmitted orders to vendors electronically

Reduced collections that were not circulating and removed shelving to create room for MakerSpace





#### Future Plans

**Install EV Chargers in Library parking lot** 

Continue to upgrade fluorescent lamps to LED lighting throughout building

Annual Office Supply Swap to help staff divest themselves of office supplies they do not need

Offer staff the opportunity to participate in a Community Action Poverty Simulation

# nank you very MUCh