



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

2024 Annual Report



Table of Contents

➤ Year In Review	➤ Congratulations!	➤ Recognition
➤ Partnerships	➤ The Story of Your Certification Plaque	➤ Voices From the Field
➤ National Climate Action Strategy Published	➤ Welcome to the Community!	➤ Thanks to Our Mentors
➤ Donors & Sponsors	➤ Where we Are	➤ Advisory Board
➤ 2024 Revenue	➤ Examples from Sustainable Libraries	➤ 2025 and Beyond
➤ 2024 Expenses	➤ Where we Were	➤ Our Mission Remains
➤ Energy Consumption Report	➤ Press Mentions	➤ Connect with Us

Year In Review

2024 was a very important year in the history of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative.

It was a record year in terms of growth with membership skyrocketing by 600% and folks enrolled in the Sustainable Libraries Initiative growing by over 170%.

We welcomed two more state associations, Maine and Virginia, and our first national association – the Association of Research Libraries – as partners. We traveled the country to meet colleagues and make new connections from LLX in Baltimore to PLA in Columbus, OH, to ALA in San Diego, CA and our partner state association conferences in Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York to name a few.

At the national level we were proud to see Sustainability reaffirmed as a core value of our profession, a validation of the work of the hundreds of SLI members who are leading the way to a stronger tomorrow, ensuring our organizations are relevant and responsive to the communities that we serve.

2024 also marked the release of the National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries, a joint project between SLI and the American Library Association. This strategy marks a turning point for collective impact on the topic across the profession in our country, creating a path forward for us all to focus our energy and resources on actions that will truly make a difference in the short term and for the long haul in the face of the climate hazards most likely to happen in your corner of the world.

The SLI was recognized in November with the highest award bestowed by the New York State Library, a wonderful way to wrap up the year by being recognized for the hard work of the staff, volunteers, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, and most importantly – you, our members, who are leading the way to a brighter tomorrow.

-Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Co-Founder & Advisory Board President

New & Renewed Partnerships

ASSOCIATION
OF RESEARCH
LIBRARIES



Enduring Partnerships



Sustainable Librarianship:
Core Competencies and Practices



WebJunction Building Resilient
Communities Webinar:
Climate Change Communication:
How and why to do it in Libraries

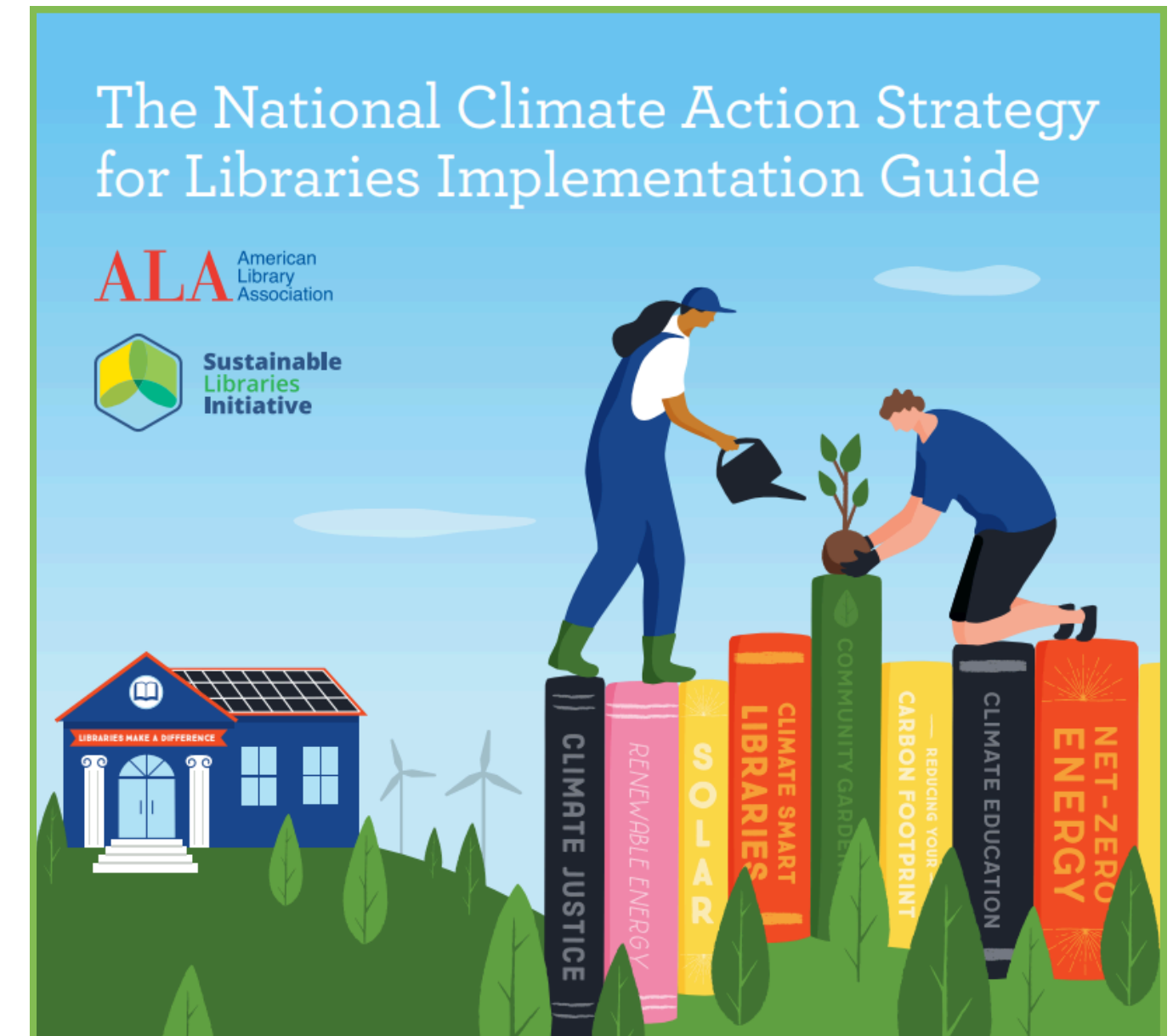
National Climate Action Strategy Published

In collaboration with the Executive Board of the American Library Association, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative Advisory Board embarked on an ambitious effort to develop a National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries and its accompanying Implementation Guide.

This strategy provides a comprehensive framework for climate action within the library community, ensuring that libraries remain essential, responsive institutions capable of making a lasting impact in the face of climate change. The strategy identifies three key areas of focus, each with prioritized actions for libraries: Climate Change Mitigation, Climate Change Adaptation & Contributions to Community Resilience, and Climate Justice Work.

The National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries Implementation Guide is now available, offering a deeper understanding of each strategic area. It introduces core concepts, outlines simple steps to begin, and includes a wealth of resources and examples to support and accelerate library-led climate action.

Explore the National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries and Implementation Guide here: <https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/national-climate-action-strategy-libraries>



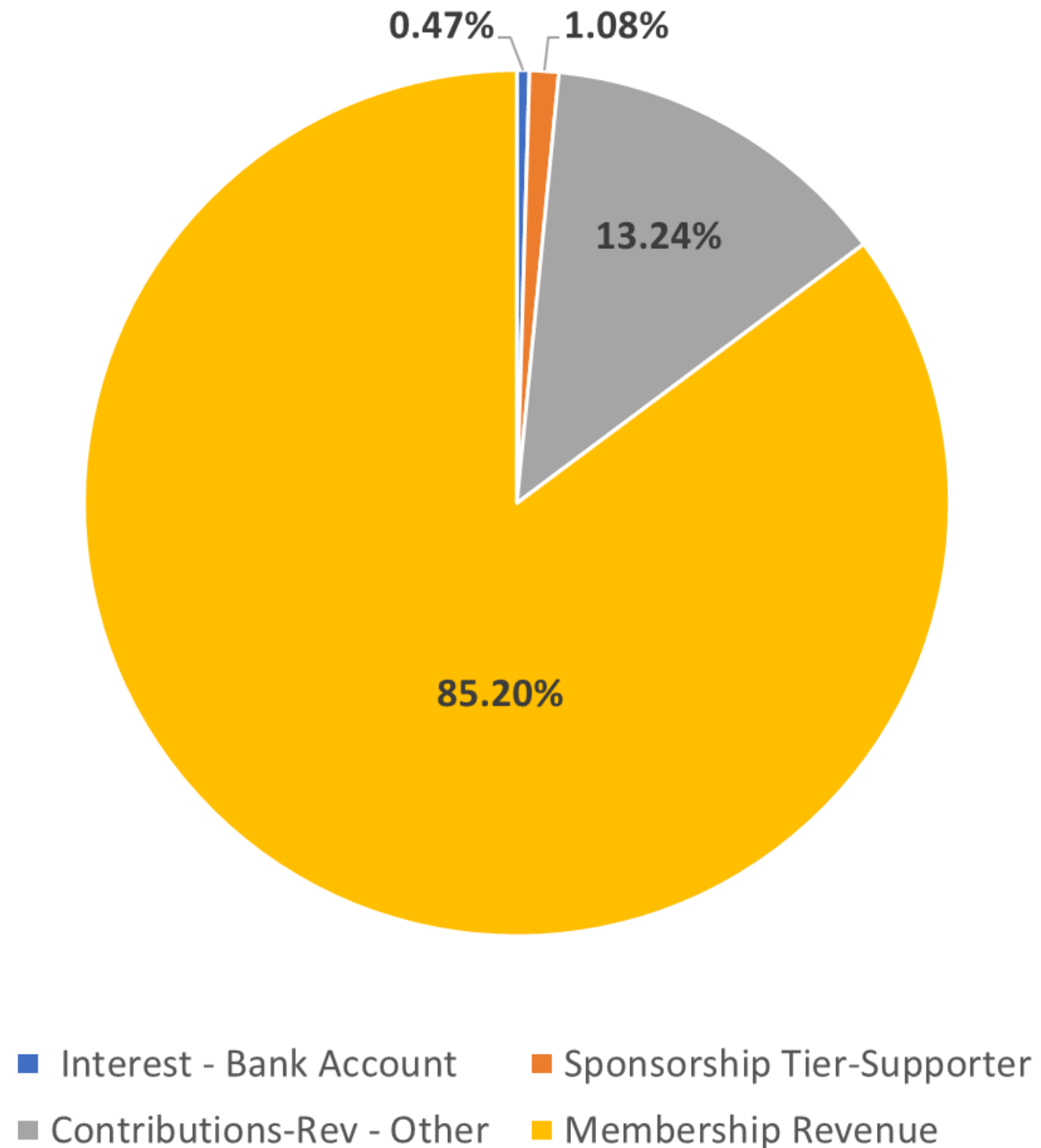
Donors & Sponsors

We are grateful to all of our donors and sponsors for their ongoing support and participation!



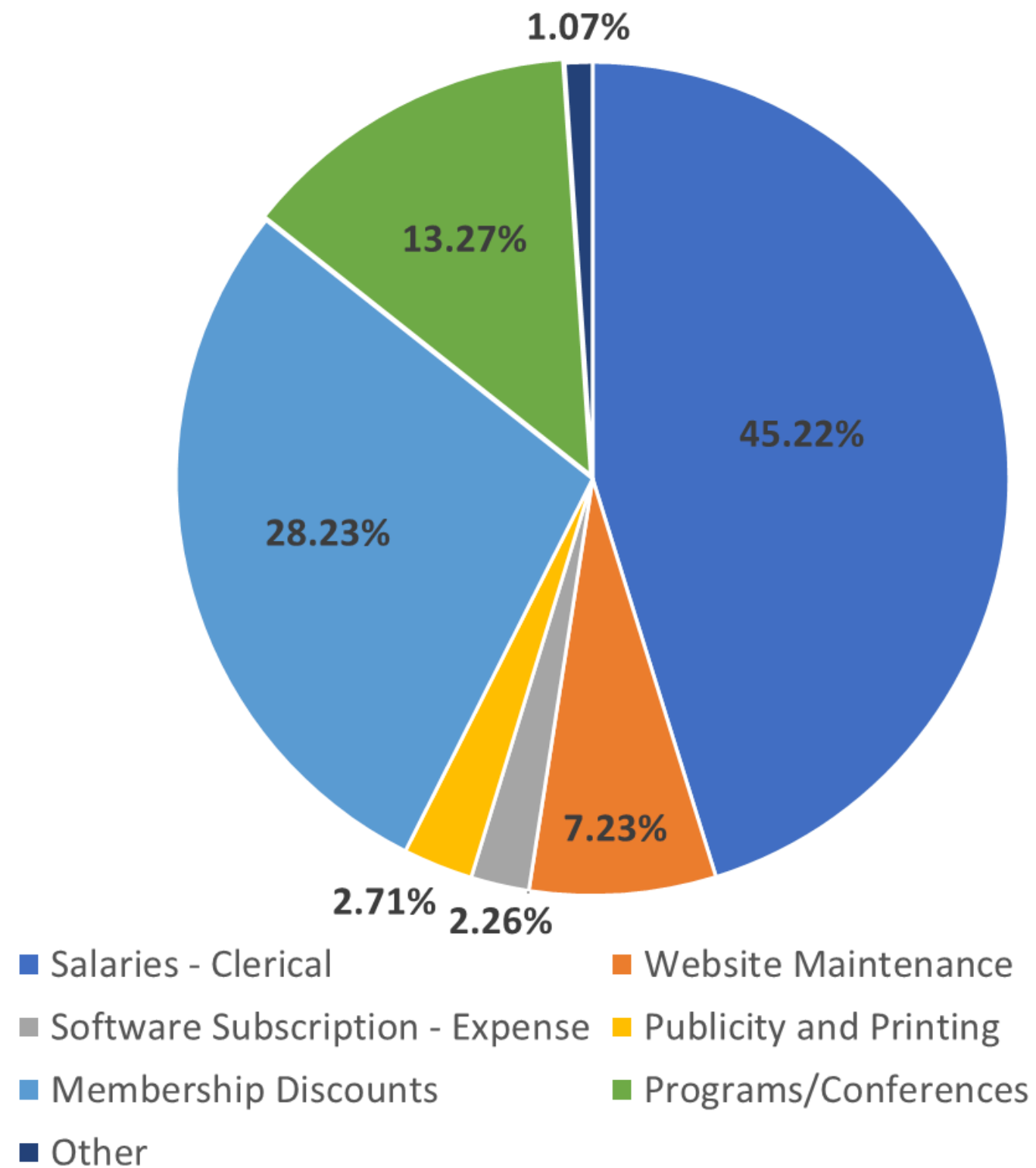
2024 Revenue

Total Revenue - \$92,185.43



2024 Expenses

Total Expense - \$66,346.10





Energy Consumption Report

*Prepared for:
Suffolk Cooperative Library System
Long Island, New York*

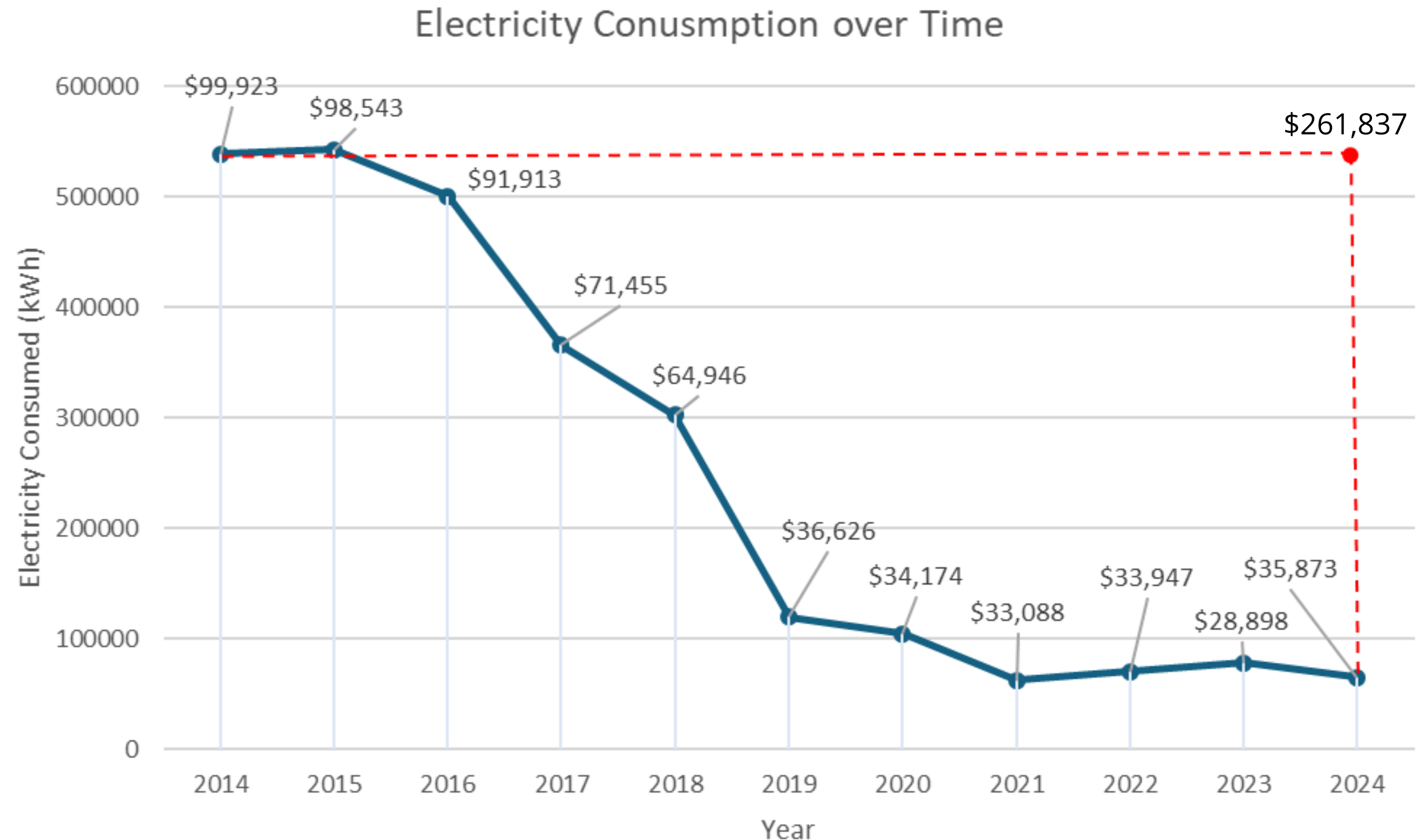


Electricity Consumption

→ 2014: **538,760 kWh**
\$99,923

→ 2024: **73,880 kWh**
\$35,873

→ If the same amount of electricity that was used in 2014 was used today, it would cost \$296,318. This means that **SCLS saved \$225,964**

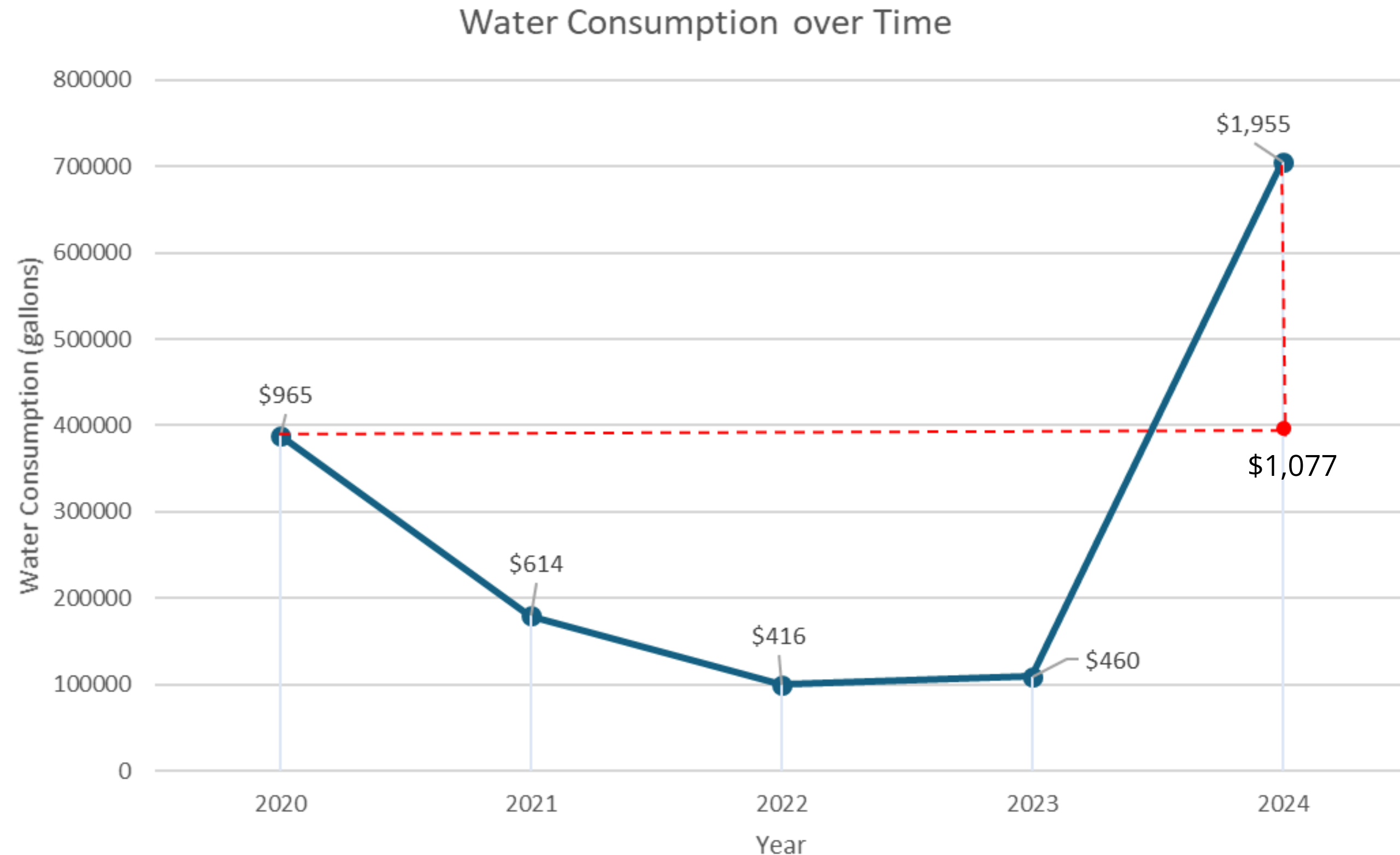


Water Use

→ 2020: **388,212 gallons**
\$965

→ 2024: **704,990 gallons**
\$1,955

→ If the same amount of water that was used in 2014 was used today, it would cost \$1,077.

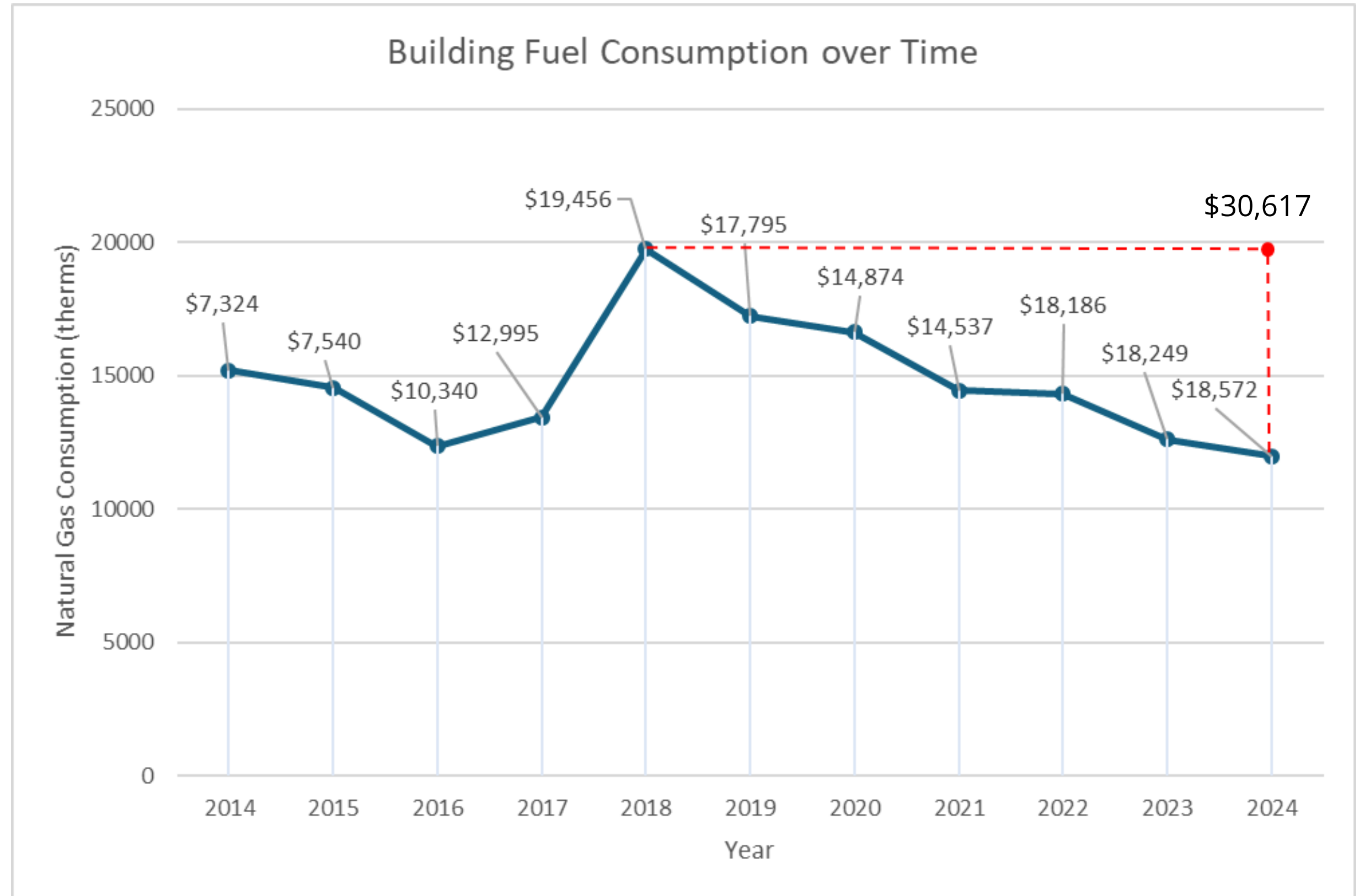


Building Fuel Consumption (Natural Gas)

→ 2014: **15,214 therms**
\$7,324

→ 2024: **11,997 therms**
\$18,572

→ If the same amount of natural gas that was used in 2018 was used today, it would cost \$30,617.
This means that **SCLS saved \$12,045**



Congratulations!



15 members were certified in 2024 bringing our total to 45 certified members!

- **9** Public Libraries
- **1** Library System
- **5** School Librarians



Congratulations on your accomplishment:

- Concord Free Public Library, Concord, MA
- Copiague Memorial Library, Copiague, NY
- Elwood Public Library, East Northport, NY
- Kinderhook Memorial Library, Kinderhook, NY
- Norman Williams Public Library, Woodstock, VT
- Ramapo Catskill Library System, Middletown, NY
- Rogers Memorial Library, Southampton, NY
- San Diego County Library, San Diego, CA
- South Country Library, Bellport, NY
- West Babylon Public Library, West Babylon, NY
- Ashley Grillo
 - Spackenkill High School, Poughkeepsie, NY
- J. Trish Sergi
 - Syosset High School, Syosset, NY
- Kelsey LaPort
 - Sunrise Drive Elementary, Sayville, NY
- Kristina Holzweiss
 - Syosset High School, Syosset, NY
- Sarah Wasser
 - Syosset High School, Syosset, NY



The Story of Your Certification Plaque

Sustainable Thinking In Action

The certification plaque members receive after completing the SLCP was sourced from locally reclaimed products and manufactured in partnership with local vendors and libraries. This collaboration allowed us to produce these plaques at a cost of under \$23 while keeping numerous items out of landfills.



The wood base of the plaque is Brazilian red-heart Mahogany, sourced from **LUMBER+Salt** on Long Island's North Fork, was reclaimed barn wood. The owner, appreciative of library work, offered a 25% discount.

Framerica Corporation, a local manufacturer we collaborated with during Covid for face shield production, graciously cut the boards to size for free.

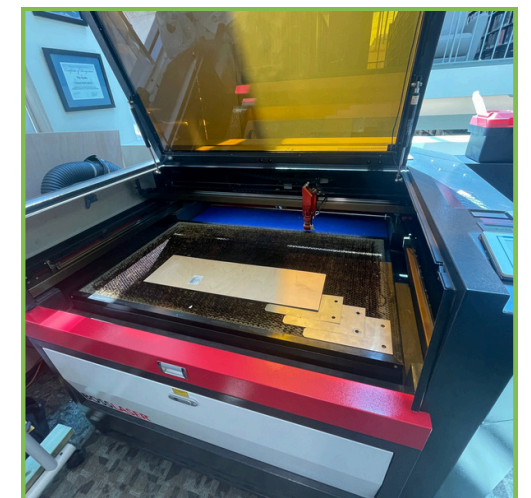
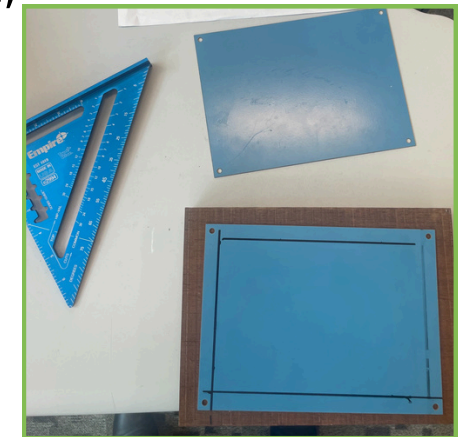
The blue metal background comes from reclaimed library shelving sourced from the **Suffolk Cooperative Library System**.



At **Long Island Waterjet**, the shelving was cut to size using high-pressure water jet cutters. The owner lives with their family near the Sachem Public Library, and are frequent patrons. As a gesture of appreciation, we received a 20% discount.

Sachem Public Library's "The Studio" designed the Certified Sustainable crest and layout of the plaque. We continue to work with both Sachem Public Library and **Middle Country Public Library** to manufacture the parts of the plaque.

The plaques are assembled at the Suffolk Cooperative Library System by its maintenance staff. Wood bases are cleaned, sealed, and pre-drilled for assembly. Hardware left over from previous projects are used for final assembly.



Welcome to the Community



We enrolled 65 new members to the Sustainable Library Certification Program

- **30** Public Libraries
- **2** Library Systems
- **4** Academic Libraries
- **29** School Librarians



We had 128 new Sustainable Library Initiative Members sign up

- **55** Public Libraries
- **1** Library System
- **17** Academic Libraries
- **53** Personal Members
- **2** Special libraries



Where We Are



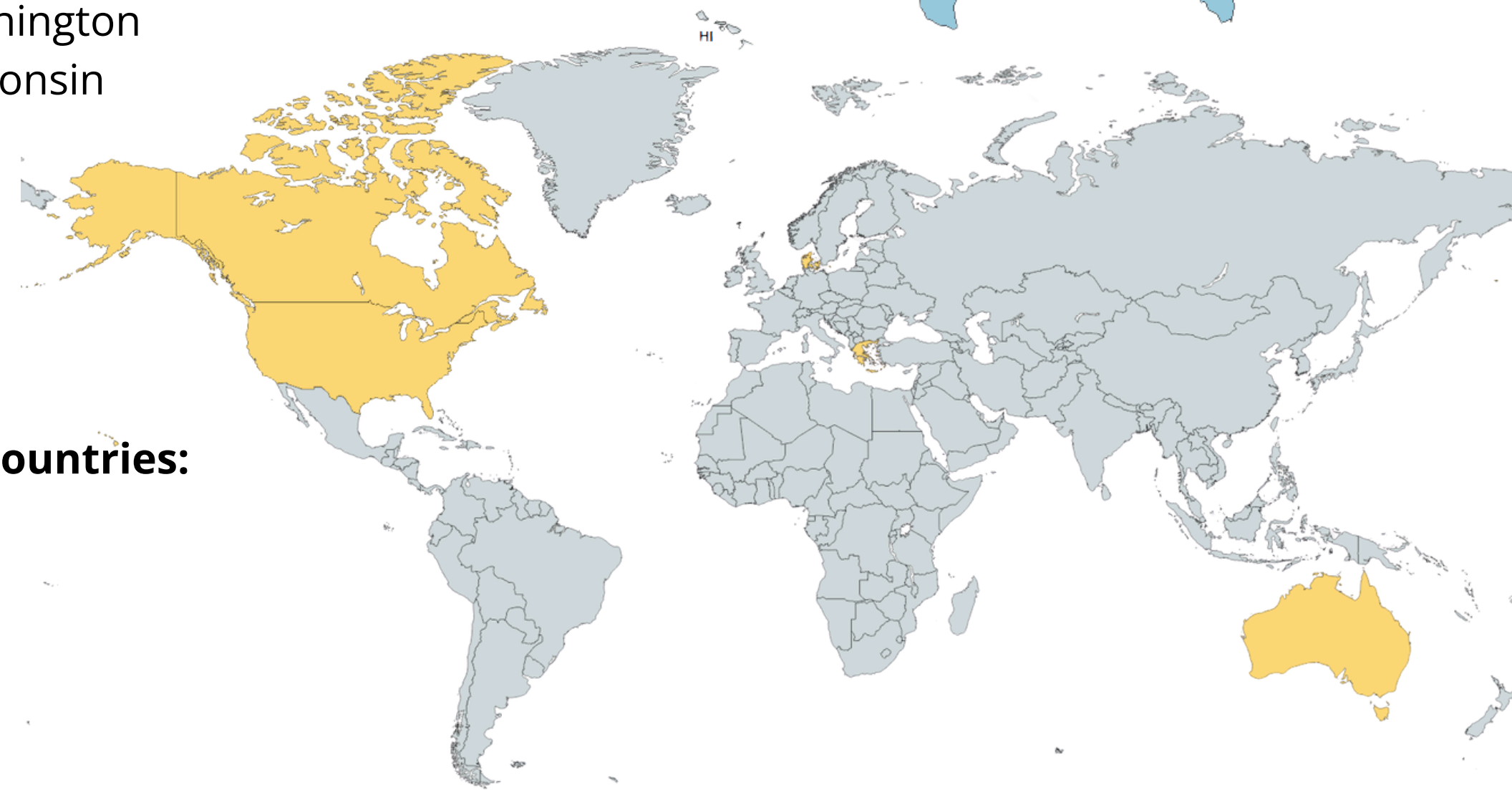
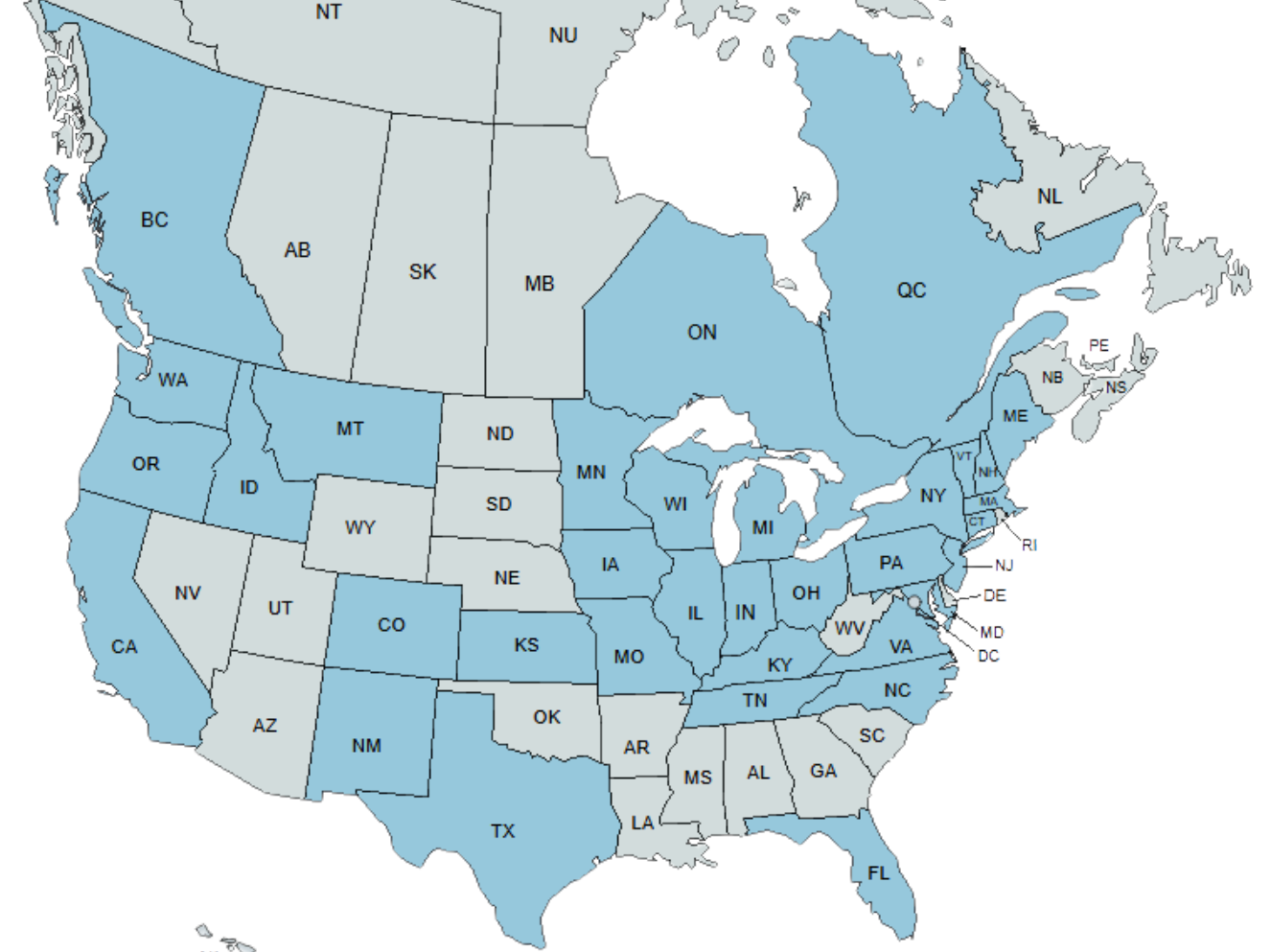
United States: 31 States

- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Montana
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin



The Sustainable Libraries Initiative reaches 5 countries:


- Australia
- Canada
- Denmark
- Greece
- United States




Examples from Sustainable Libraries

(01) SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE (2024)

LESSONS FROM *my* SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY


 **ASHLEY GRILLO - SCHOOL LIBRARIAN**
Spackenkill High School, Poughkeepsie, New York




By installing three indoor greenhouses in her school, librarian Ashley Grillo garnered high levels of engagement from her students on the topic of sustainability. The greenhouses also gather attention of other departments within her school: art classes use the plants as inspiration for their creations and the science department has since expressed interest in composting – educating future generations in areas such as the environment and climate change.

(01) SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE (2024)

LESSONS FROM *my* SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY

 **KINDERHOOK MEMORIAL LIBRARY**
Kinderhook, New York



Demonstrating the value of partnerships in the effort to build climate conscious and resilient communities, Kinderhook Memorial Library established bonds with external organizations to support the social, financial, and environmental sustainability of their service area. Hosting programs such as a “Meatless Monday” campaign with their local supermarket, a Storytime program with Kinderhook’s firefighters, and a donation collection for feminine hygiene products through the Zonta club, the library provides a reach much farther than the confines of its walls.

Follow us to see more stories:




Examples from Sustainable Libraries

(01)

SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE


(2024)

LESSONS FROM
my
SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY



THE CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Concord, Massachusetts




The Concord Free Public Library leveraged collective action to expand its sustainability efforts and strengthen community connections. A key initiative, native seed workshops, partnered with a local farm, a high school club, and municipal departments, attracting new visitors and fostering idea-sharing. Through its programs and services, the library not only promoted sustainability but also provided the community with the knowledge and resources to incorporate eco-friendly practices into daily life.

(01)

SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE


(2024)

LESSONS FROM
my
SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY



ELWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

East Northport, New York



Elwood Public Library effectively used social media and online resources to promote sustainability, sharing weekly educational Instagram posts and maintaining a dedicated website page with sustainability programs and information. Their diverse programs engaged all age groups, featuring events on sustainable transportation, recycling, seed-saving, and civic engagement. Additionally, the library prioritized eco-friendly practices by eliminating plastic giveaways, opting for practical items or locally donated gift cards instead.

Follow us to see more stories:



Where We Were



Other events:

- AMICAL Consortium (International)
- Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) Green Libraries Conference (UK)
- Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) Climate Resiliency Workshop Series
- Maryland Library Association's Future of Libraries Interest Group
- New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response
- New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference
- New Jersey State Library Trustee Institute
- Trustee Handbook Book Club (New York State)
- South Central Regional Library Council Annual Meeting



Press Mentions



Advisory Board members, Hazel Onsrud & Nardia Cumberbatch featured in Library Journal Movers & Shakers 2024: The People Shaping the Future of Libraries



Building Resilient Communities Article: Public Libraries are Critical Agencies in Multi-Sector Climate Action Plans, Policies, and Actions by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich



Fast Company Article: How public libraries are becoming community hubs in the midst of disasters



San Diego County Library and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative Featured in Our Towns Article How Libraries Are Becoming 'Sustainable'



School Library Journal feature Certified Sustainable School Librarian, Ashley Grillo in Article: Librarian Brings Greenhouse, Sustainable Practices to School



Recognition



Pictured (left to right): Roger Reyes, SLI Treasurer and Assistant Director of SCLS; Alex Blend, SCLS/SLI Sustainability Coordinator; Sophia LoCascio, SCLS/SLI Member Engagement Associate; Lisa Kropp, 2023-2024 NYLA President, SLI Advisory Board Member, and Director of Lindenhurst Memorial Library; and Kevin Verbese, Director of SCLS. Photo provided by Faiella Studios.

The Suffolk Cooperative Library System (SCLS) in Bellport, New York was awarded with the Joseph F. Schubert Library Excellence Award at 2024's New York Library Association Annual Conference in November for their support of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI).

Given annually, the award recognizes the achievements of New York State libraries and library consortia of any size that have taken strides to improve the quality of library service in the last two years.

SCLS, designated in 2023 as the second library system to achieve certification through the Sustainable Library Certification Program, has supported the SLI for several years through the provision of office space, staff support, and financial assistance.

The generosity and contributions of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System have allowed the SLI to grow substantially. This support furthers the understanding of social, financial, and environmental sustainability for libraries across the globe and inspires library leaders to take action in pursuing a sustainable future for their communities.

The award is sponsored by the New York State Regents Advisory Council and is accompanied by a gift of \$1,000 supplied by the Friends of the New York State Library.

Voices From the Field

"We were incredibly proud to receive the Sustainable Library Certification last year. It is a clear reflection of our dedication to environmental stewardship. This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering support of San Diego County and its Board of Supervisors, as well as the collaborative efforts of various County departments. We also recognize our dedicated staff, whose hard work and commitment have been instrumental in reaching this milestone.

We will soon begin construction of our first library featuring captured carbon, in addition to our Gold LEED and Zero Net Energy standards. We have also deployed four fully electric Outreach Vans. With these latest projects, we reaffirm our commitment to sustainable innovation. Together, we are building a greener, more resilient future for our community."

Migell Acosta, Library Director, San Diego County Library, San Diego, CA



Susan Moore , Deputy Director of San Diego County Library and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Voices From the Field

“Completing the Sustainable Library Certification process has been a transformative journey for the Syosset High School Library Learning Commons. This recognition has redefined our vision, compelling us to prioritize social equity, environmental sustainability, and economic viability. The process provided us with a valuable reflection on our current practices, allowing us to critically assess our strengths and identify areas for improvement. Working on this certification together as a team of three fostered a sense of unity and collaboration, significantly strengthening our program.

This reflection has empowered us to make informed decisions and implement meaningful changes. We are honored to have earned this certification and look forward to continuing our commitment to sustainability. The positive impact on students and faculty has been profound, inspiring a greater awareness and commitment to sustainable practices within our school community.”

Syosset High School Library Learning Commons, Syosset, NY



J. Trish Sergi, Sarah Wasser, and Kristina Holzweiss,
Syosset High School Library Learning Commons

Voices From the Field

“Participating in the Sustainable Library Certification Program was a great experience for our library. The program provided practical tools and valuable insights that empowered our library to implement more sustainable practices, reduce waste, and reduce costs. The support from the SLI team was terrific. Completing this certification enhanced our library’s operational efficiency and inspired our staff to prioritize sustainability in our daily decisions. We’re proud to be a certified sustainable library and are excited to continue building on the positive changes we’ve made. I highly recommend the program to any institution seeking to create a lasting impact in their community.”

Clare McFarland, Director, Norman Williams Public Library, Woodstock, VT



Voices From the Field

“The Concord Free Public Library proudly became the first certified sustainable library in Massachusetts 1 year ago. While the Library began its sustainability journey in 2020, staff found that completing all of the tasks in our Sustainability Implementation plan felt rather daunting. After joining the Sustainable Libraries Initiative in 2022 and receiving mentoring from SLI board member Janet Scherer, the CFPL was able to not only complete its certification 2 years later, but also able to progress through most of its 5-year implementation plan on schedule.

Janet and the SLI team provided essential support to the CFPL by connecting the staff with other libraries and resources, example policies and best practices, and offering advice to get “unstuck” when the CFPL Green Team wasn’t progressing along as it had hoped. The SLI community is a place for collaboration, resource sharing, encouragement and support. When goals seem daunting, the SLI mentors can help guide libraries towards smaller steps to build up to achieving larger milestones.

To complete the SLI certification process successfully we quickly realized that it was essential to connect with a range of experts and stakeholders, including not only our library staff and local community, but also the broader SLI community (including our mentor and other SLI libraries) that is available to you once you join. We are grateful for all of the support we received from SLI that has helped us on our sustainability journey.”

Emily Smith, Director, Concord Free Public Library, Concord, MA



Concord Free Public Library Director, Emily Smith (center) and Concord town agencies discuss how their organizations would respond during an emergency

Voices From the Field

"Joining the SLI has been a wonderful experience and has helped us answer the question "what's next for our library?".

We had been vaguely focused on sustainability as a loose concept after our 2018 expansion but couldn't define what that meant or what it might look like for us.

Joining the SLI and completing the tasks, attending workshops, and meeting other members has really helped us figure out what role we want to play in our community and how we can have the strongest impact. Being a member has truly helped us find our focus and run with it."

Matthew Pavloff, Director, Kinderhook Memorial Library, Kinderhook, NY



Kinderhook Memorial Library

Thanks to our Mentors



Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System



Nardia Cumberbatch

Librarian, Valencia College



Matthew Bollerman

CEO, Hauppauge Public Library



Jill Davis

Director, Hendrick Hudson Free Library



Dr. Jen Cannell

School Librarian, The Park Slope Educational Complex at MS 88



Claudia Depkin

Director, Haverstraw Kings Daughters Public Library



Laura Crisci

Library Sustainability Coordinator,
Mid-Hudson Library System



Debbie Engelhardt

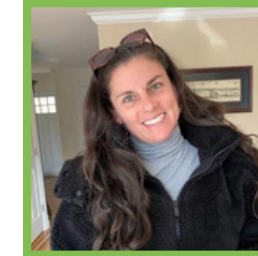
Director, Comsewogue Public Library

Thanks to our Mentors



Jennifer Ferriss

Assistant Director, Saratoga Springs Public Library



Ann-Marie Kalin

School Librarian, Shoreham-Wading River Middle School



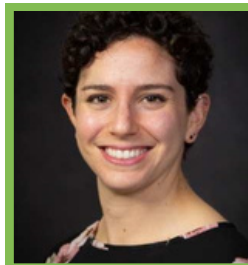
Reni Cunningham

Public Librarian



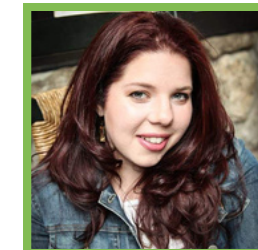
Lisa G. Kropp

Director, Lindenhurst Memorial Library



Joanna Goldfarb

Sustainability Innovation Consultant,
Ramapo Catskill Library System



Cheryl Jones

Director, Mamakating Public Library



Lisa Jacobs

Director, Longwood Public Library



Linda Meglio

Assistant Director, Harborfields Public Library

Thanks to our Mentors



Kenneth Miller

Director, Copiague Memorial Public Library



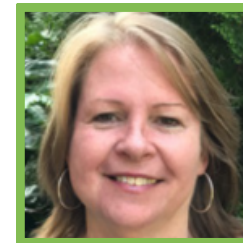
Roger Reyes

Assistant Director, Suffolk Cooperative Library System



Claire Mitchell

Teacher-Librarian, Fairfield Elementary School



Janet Scherer

Director, South Huntington Public Library



Joanna McCloskey

School Librarian, Seaford High School



Michelle Statfeld

Library Media and Educational Technology Specialist, West Babylon Junior High School



Hazel Onsrud

Librarian, Curtis Memorial Library



Margaret Woodruff

Director, Charlotte Library

Advisory Board



Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

President, Co-founder,
Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System



Matthew Bollerman

Vice President, Co-founder,
CEO, Hauppauge Public Library



Janet Scherer

Director, South Huntington Public Library



Roger Reyes

Treasurer, Assistant Director, Suffolk Cooperative
Library System



Lisa G. Kropp

Secretary, Director, Lindenhurst Memorial Library



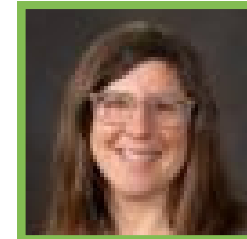
Nardia Cumberbatch

Librarian, Valencia College



Dr. Jen Cannell

School Librarian, The Park Slope Educational
Complex at MS 88



Jennifer Ferriss

Assistant Director, Saratoga Springs Public Library



Margaret Woodruff

Director, Charlotte Library



Claudia Depkin

Director, Haverstraw Kings Daughters Public Library



Hazel Onsrud

Librarian, Curtis Memorial Library

2025 and Beyond

What 's coming next from the Sustainable Libraries Initiative



**Certification Path for
Individuals**



**School Librarian Certification
Program goes National**



The Tempestry Project



**Partnership with the Seed
Library Network**



**Quarterly webinars: Seed Libraries,
Library of Things, and more!**

2025 and Beyond

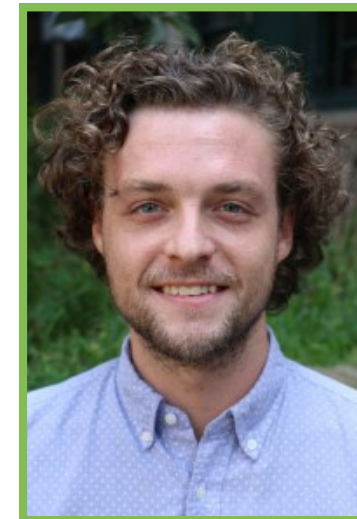
Welcome to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative Advisory Board!



Mandi Goodsett
Performing Arts & Humanities
Librarian,
OER & Copyright Advisor
Cleveland State University, Ohio



Sarah Tribelhorn
Science & Sustainability Librarian,
San Diego State University, California



Vincent Hyland
Library Coordinator,
North Brooklyn
Office of Library Services,
New York

Our Mission Remains

Empowering library leaders to advance environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible practices to intentionally address climate change and co-create thriving communities.





**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Thank you!

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative extends our heartfelt appreciation to our members and partners for being an integral part of the SLI community. Your dedication, contributions, and enthusiasm for sharing ideas are the foundation of our collective success.
Without you, the SLI would not be the thriving community it is today.

Connect with Us



Website

www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org



Phone

+1 (631)-286-1600 x1355



E-mail

sliaadmin@suffolknet.org



Social Media





**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

View the 2024 Annual Report

