



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative](#)



Exterior of Haverstraw King's Daughters Public Library
Photo Credit: HKDPL Facebook page

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations Haverstraw King's
Daughters Public Library - 1
Workplace Wellness - 3
Member News - 3
Upcoming Events - 3

CONGRATULATIONS, HAVERSTRAW KING'S DAUGHTERS PUBLIC LIBRARY!

HKDPL is the latest library to be certified through our award-winning [Sustainable Library Certification Program](#). They are the eleventh public library to become certified and one of 60 public libraries that are part of our program. Library Director, Claudia Depkin, has been involved with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative from the beginning. As part of the initial working group that shaped this organization, Claudia knew that the choice to adopt the [Triple Bottom Line](#) definition of sustainability for the program would mean that every part of library operations would be affected by the certification process.

The staff and administration were highly engaged with the process. All of the staff who were surveyed recognized that moving the library to act sustainably was an important goal. The challenges of the pandemic may have slowed them down, but as they worked to draft a new strategic plan along with their SLCP Certification, they were able to take the time to assess their services and listen closely to their community. They were able to reach out deeper into the community and have the time for the message of partnership to spread farther to different organizations. "We were able to get the message out that we are a willing and able partner," says Claudia, "and groups are stepping forward to work with us in these incredibly meaningful ways that will positively impact our residents."



Follow us on social media

CONGRATULATIONS, HKDPL, CONTINUED

HKDPL has established programs that bring therapy dogs to a home for disabled people. Through this program, they are bringing new library services and specialized programs to meet the needs of residents who may not otherwise be able to benefit from the library's services. They are also working with the Westchester Mental Health Association to provide space for their mobile mental health vehicle, bringing free mental health services to library patrons. This innovative service shows the community that the library can connect people to vital services, and in this case with a convenient access point right on the library property. Additionally, HKDPL is working with the 9th Judicial District Family Court to provide space for community members to attend virtual court hearings. Helping their residents access government services in new ways benefits the library by expanding the community's notion of services. This benefits the community by providing a safe space with reliable internet to residents who need access to judicial services.

The environmental portion of their certification was completed in 2019 with Green Business Partnership Certification. The HKDPL Green Team has shared environmentally sustainable tips among the administration, staff, and community. Their existing solar panels have reduced their purchased electricity costs and greenhouse gas emissions. They have upgraded to LED light fixtures and installed auto-on-off lighting sensors in bathrooms. Additionally, they have reduced the volume of waste in their dumpster by half.



HKDPL Bike Rodeo. Photo Credit: Claudia Depkin

They installed signs outside of the library prohibiting vehicles from idling. Their purchase plans include buying Energy Star-rated electronics to replace any machines that are taken out of service. All of these steps add up to a significant reduction in their environmental footprint.

The staff at HKDPL will continue to work towards environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic feasibility. The Triple Bottom Line concept is woven through their 2022-2024 strategic plan. Working concurrently on a strategic plan and SLCP Certification helped to formalize the commitments HKDPL has made to listen to their community and integrate the work done to move more sustainable practices into the programs, outreach, and information shared. Library Director, Claudia Depkin will continue to be active with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative as a mentor for public libraries in the Sustainable Library Certification Program.



Follow us on social media



Picture credit: Canva

WORKPLACE WELLNESS

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is presenting a webinar on the topic of wellness in the workplace. This presentation will include a discussion within the scope of the Triple Bottom Line and a panel discussion with practical and accessible examples of libraries bringing wellness initiatives to their staff and communities. Please join us Monday, July 18th at 11 am EST. [Register here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SLCP Member Meetup. Thurs, June 2nd, 11 am EST.

New Hampshire Library Association Sustainability Committee Presents: Beyond Lightbulbs and Solar Panels*. Tues, June 7th, 10 am EST (*Open to all, there is a fee to attend)

PLA Webinar: Libraries as climate resilience hubs: Working with your community to take action to build resilience. Weds, July 13th, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm EST

SLI Workplace Wellness Webinar. Mon July 18th, 11 am EST

Niche Academy: Free Webinar: Sustainable Thinking for the Future of Libraries. Weds, July 20th, 2 pm EST

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT

This year's Collaborative Summer Reading Program theme is "Oceans of Possibilities." This is a great opportunity to provide education about ocean health and the effects of pollution and climate change. The following resources are a great place to start:

[Plastic Pollution Coalition](#)

[How to talk to your kids about plastic pollution](#)
[World Ocean Day](#)

[World Ocean Day for Schools 2022](#)

[NOAA: Understanding Marine Debris](#)

[5 Things you can do to teach young children about the impact of plastic on the ocean](#)

MEMBER NEWS

We have three new libraries signed up to participate in the SLCP this month. Each of these libraries joins an active group of member libraries who support the work of the SLI and each other. [Harrison Public Library](#) joins us from the Westchester Library System in New York. [Kirkland Town Library](#) are beginning the custom SLI Benchmarks after completing their environmental certification from the Green Business Partnership in 2019. [Northport-East Northport Public Library](#) join us from Northport, NY and are part of the Suffolk Cooperative Library System. We also welcome a new Member, Frederick Stoss from the University at Buffalo.

Kirkland Town Library



Follow us on social media