SLCP Online Meetup #27 Recap

October 6, 2022

Attendance:

Annemarie Gordon SLI/SCLS

Ashley Maraffino, Valley Cottage Library, NY

Hazel Onsrud, Curtis Memorial Library, ME

Larissa Brookes, Ridgewood, NJ

Emily Spizzirri, Patchogue-Medford Library, NY

Johanna Reinhardt, Butterfield Library, NY

Michele Lipson, Plainedge Library, NY

Janet Scherer, South Huntington Public Library, NY

Greg Sohanchyk, Harrison Public Library, NY

Kristen Stroh, Sachem Public Library, NY

Jessica Schoonover, Shirley M. Wright Memorial Library, WI

Ryan O’Rourke, Bayport-Blue Point Public Library, NY

Jen Ferriss, Saratoga Springs Public Library, NY

Reni Cunningham, Concord Free Public Library, MA

Lauren Tellerman, Northport-East Northport Public Library, NY

Sophie Smith, York Public Library, ME

Claudia Depkin, Haverstraw King’s Daughters Public Library, NY

Nora, Northport-East Northport Public Library, NY

SLI Announcements:

Congratulations to Brentwood Public Library for completing their certification! They persevered through many staff changes, leave of absences, and, of course, COVID.

IMPORTANT -NY Ballot Proposition. There is an important Proposition on the back of the ballot next month. The Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Act will allocate $4.2 billion dollars to projects in New York State that address climate change, improve water quality, and provide flood restoration and risk management. You can read more about the proposal here:

SCLS Announcements:

Stemming from a discussion at a previous SLCP Meetup, SLCS will be holding a webinar for Suffolk County Libraries about making the Sierra system greener.

SCLS has installed 12 new EV Charge Stations. The 6 existing chargers have been in steady use by the staff and by our new electric delivery vehicle. The new chargers allow the capacity for staff and visitor to charge.

Introductions and Updates:

Ashley (Valley Cottage): At the very beginning of the certification process.

Claudia (HKDPL) Certified in May 2022, currently mentoring six libraries in the program

Emily (Pat-Med) Certified a few years ago, looking into installing solar panels and seeking information about rebates and grants.

Greg (Harrison) Just starting the certification process. Interested in data collection and tracking of energy use (see discussion below)

Janet (SHPL) Mentor to some libraries in the Meetup, SLI Advisory Board Member, SHPL was certified last year. For New York Libraries, NYLA’s START Round Table will have a booth at the Annual Conference.

Jen Ferriss (SSPL) Jen will be at the NYLA START Booth on the vendor floor. SSPL will be holding its 8th Repair Café. The library receives phone calls year round asking about the program.

Jessica Schoonover (SMWML) Small community in Trempealeau, WI. EBSCO Solar Grant recipient.

Joanna (Butterfield Library) enrolled in a community solar program, in the beginning of certification. Also a small library.

Larissa (Ridgewood) Repair Rights bill was just passed in NY, promising for Right to Repair movement associated with Repair Cafes. Ridgewood Library has held many repair cafes.

Kristin (Sachem) Sachem is a year into the process.

Lauren (NENPL) Just beginning the program.

Reni (CFPL) They have an extensive and documented Sustainability plan which they are working on allocating to the appropriate spots on the Action Item Form. The detailed Sustainability Plan does not have anything about staff workspaces, so they are working on that. It is an important part of how they are introducing the certification program to the staff and a good way to draw people into the process.

Janet (SHPL) The Wellness parts of the certification process brought many people into the sustainability team.

Ryan (BBPPL) Just completed their waste audit. Staff have been very enthusiastic and have brought up many ideas.

AMG (SLI) Please elaborate on the waste audit process.

Ryan (BBPPL) Picked 5 garbage cans to analyze. Was shocked by the amount of recyclable paper in the garbage. They lost all the pictures they took, so they will be repeating the process. Aim to get recycle bins more visible and more education for staff.

Janet (SHPL) Staff did a “Treasure Hunt” to find the recycle bins throughout the library. They made it fun and offered prizes.

Sophie (YPL) Their town is very supportive of sustainability efforts. There have been informational programs about migrant dairy farm workers. She is looking to tie in Staff Wellness to a broader community workplace wellness focus in other industries. These bring focus on climate and climate justice.

Greg (Harrison) Question about setting goals for energy reductions.

Annemarie (SLI) No specific goals for reduction are required because libraries in the program are all starting from different places as far as energy use goes. We are careful not to set up the certification program where it would require capital investments that are not feasible in many libraries. The focus is on tracking and monitoring. Goals are great and could be set, but nothing specific is required for the certification.

Jen Ferriss (SSPL) When doing the GBP certification (for what are now the environmental parts of the SLCP) they looked for trends and to see after the fact if there was any energy reduction. Tracking the data has worked to change the mindset around energy use in the library. Also, any increases seen lead to investigating the cause to fix it.

Greg (Harrison) The library will reflect on their data as they go through the process.

Larissa (Ridgewood) Does anyone have experience with worm composting at the library?

Hazel (CML) Yes. They have bins at the library. They needed to find fosters during COVID, but otherwise it works well. The worm castings make excellent giveaways.