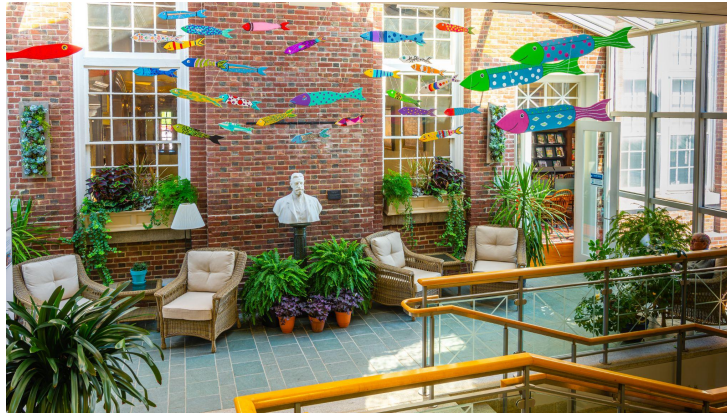


Curtis Memorial Press Release



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

For Immediate Release
February 22, 2023



Curtis Memorial Library is Certified Sustainable

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative recognizes Curtis Memorial Library as a leader in sustainability.

Suffolk County, NY – February 22, 2023 – Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, Maine has been designated a “Certified Sustainable Library” through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative’s award-winning Sustainable Library Certification Program. Curtis Memorial is the first library outside New York, where the program was founded, to earn this certification. This tremendous accomplishment highlights the important role of libraries as sustainability leaders not just in New York, but nationwide.

“The Curtis Memorial Library has demonstrated a commitment to sustainability at an impressive level,” said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Co-Founder and Advisory Board President of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, “They are early adopters of this work in the field and in their community and are helping to lead the way to create a vibrant, future-focused library that is contributing to community resilience both locally and globally.”

Curtis Memorial Library has thoroughly aligned their policies and practices with the Triple Bottom Line Definition of sustainability, demonstrating leadership not only in environmental sustainability but also in advancing social equity and looking carefully at financial

sustainability. The extensive range of programming offered highlights the attention paid to educating and serving their community with compassion and dignity for all. “Achieving this certification validates all the hard work they have been doing over the years,” remarked their SLCP Mentor, South Huntington Public Library Director, Janet Scherer, “The staff, physical spaces, policies, and programs are a true reflection of how sustainability can be incorporated within a library. I applaud their efforts and believe they serve as a wonderful example for others who are currently in the certification process or thinking about it.”

Curtis Memorial Library staff have truly embraced the SLI Community of Practice by attending monthly online SLCP Member Meetups, sharing resources and ideas, and encouraging other members. Their contributions to a collaborative and supportive environment for libraries engaging in sustainability work have helped build a vendor list, a resource that is shared with all SLI Members.

Their commitment to sustainability is also reflected by the partnerships that they have nurtured. The community organizations that they have developed relationships with have benefited from the attention and shared resources available from the library. The library, in turn, has also benefited. “All of these connections have been very helpful in raising public awareness about the Library and how it can support community initiatives,” stated Director, Elisabeth Doucett. These partnerships include the Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program, Brunswick Housing Authority, and Midcoast Indigenous Awareness Group.

International Impact

Curtis Memorial Library is among a growing number of libraries nationwide that are participating in the Sustainable Library Certification Program, the first of its kind in the world. This benchmarking program was developed to assist libraries of all kinds - public, academic, and individual school librarians - to create opportunities to make better choices on behalf of the local and global community. The program has been recognized by the International Federation of Library Associations at their 2019 World Congress in Athens, Greece, becoming the first program in the United States to be honored through their “Green Libraries” Award.

Comprehensive Approach

With categories of actions focusing on each of the three pillars of triple bottom line sustainability such as Collective Impact, Indoor Spaces, Social Cohesion, and Resilience Planning, this comprehensive process leads a library toward institutional change that shifts the rationale for every decision to consider the local and global impacts. Through this program, libraries work with their communities to listen and learn, allowing local needs to be identified and addressed. The path to certification through the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program

is flexible for libraries of different types, sizes, and budgets and guided by the communities they serve. Each library that completes the program will select the benchmarks that best fit the needs of their library and community, resulting in a uniquely sustainable organization.

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is a nationwide organization with over eighty public libraries currently enrolled in the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program. Read more about the certification program and Curtis Memorial Library on the Sustainable Libraries Initiative website and the [‘Congratulations, Curtis Memorial Library!’](#) page.

For more information, please contact:

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