



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

2023

**Annual
Report**





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→ Year In Review

2023 proved to be another exciting year for the Sustainable Libraries Initiative!

A common theme across the year was growing our community of practice. We found new friends across the U.S., and now Canada too! We continue to develop resources, educational opportunities, and new ways to accelerate work on sustainability in libraries for our growing membership. .

We were proud to introduce the academic library certification program nationally! We'd like to give a big shout out to Valencia College in Florida for completing the Sustainable Library Certification Program, and to their leader, Nardia Cumberbatch, for stepping up to be a mentor for the next wave of academic libraries pursuing certification AND for joining the SLI Advisory Board! We are thrilled to be able to meet academic libraries where they are and help them move forward.

We were particularly grateful to OCLC and WebJunction in 2023 for helping to turn up the volume on sustainability – big time! – by hosting us through their Distinguished Seminar Series AND helping to produce a six part series on sustainability that was viewed by thousands of our colleagues.

We partnered with statewide groups across the country, from three new state library associations and their memberships (Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York) joining the SLI to the production of the Northeast Summit on Climate Resilience for Library Facilities with eight State Libraries (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) to the California State Library's new Sustainable California Libraries Grant.

While we were working on everyday success, we also had our eye on the future. We were very excited to announce a new partnership with the American Library Association in 2023 to create a **National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries**. This is an amazing opportunity to accelerate the work of climate action in our profession and significantly build the community of practice sharing information and advocating for libraries to be key players in local community resilience plans. Stay tuned for more information in 2024!

At the end of the day, we want to say thank you. Thank you for being here, for being part of something larger than yourself, and for participating to shape the future of libraries! We appreciate you.

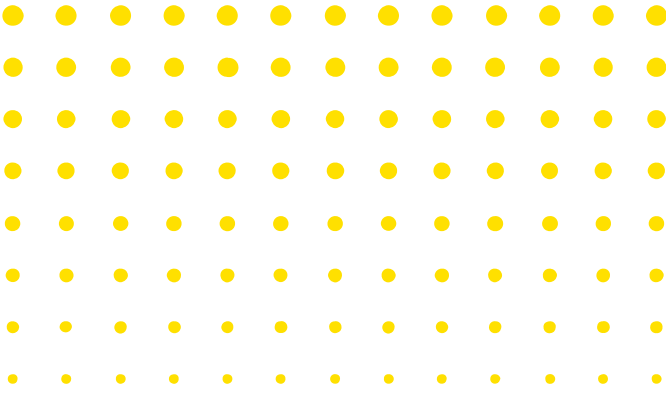
In partnership,
Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Board President, Sustainable Libraries Initiative Advisory Board



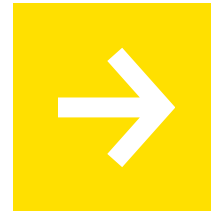
Valencia College

State Library Association Partnerships

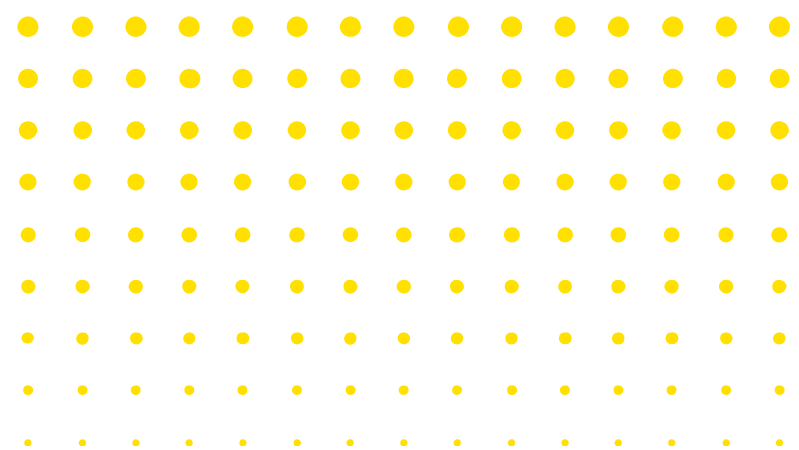
→ In 2023, we engaged in partnerships with four state associations



Partnerships



We also have partnerships with international organizations as well



American Library Association

- [ALA -SLI National Climate Action Strategy Working Group](#)
- [eCourse | Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices](#)

OCLC

- [2023 Distinguished Seminar Series](#)
- [WorldCat Book Lists](#)

WebJunction

- [Sustainable Libraries: Resources and Webinars for Climate Action](#)



Statistics

→ 12 members were certified in 2023, bringing our total to 30 certified members! (33% increase from 2022!)

- 5 Public Libraries
- 1 Academic Library
- 1 Library System
- 5 School Librarians

→ Congratulations on your accomplishment:

- Curtis Memorial Library
- Harborfields Public Library
- Mamakating Library
- Montauk Library
- Shelter Island Public Library
- Suffolk Cooperative Library System
- Valencia College
- Anne-Marie Kalin
 - Albert G. Prodel Middle School, Shoreham-Wading River
- Bonnie Bredes
 - Center Moriches Middle & High School
- Claire Mitchell
 - Fairfield Elementary School
- Laura Silver *(Pictured below)*
 - PS 90: The Magnet School of Environmental Studies and Community Wellness.
- Michelle Statfeld
 - West Babylon Junior High School



Harborfields Public Library

Statistics continued



We enrolled 39 new members to the Sustainable Library Certification Program

- 24 Public Libraries
- 2 Library Systems
- 6 Academic Libraries
- 7 School Librarians



We had 35 new Sustainable Libraries Initiative members sign up

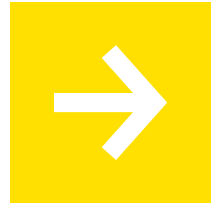
- 17 Public Libraries
- 2 Library Systems
- 2 Academic Libraries
- 12 Personal Members
- Correctional Facility Library,
NYS DEC Research Library



Kinderhook Memorial Library

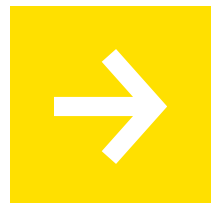
Geographic Reach

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative reaches 27 States and 2 Canadian Provinces.



United States:

- California
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Idaho
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- Wisconsin



Canada:

- British Columbia
- Ontario



Testimonials

Linda Meglio, Assistant Director, Harborfields Public Library, Greenlawn NY

→ “The certification process gave us a focus on how we could align our Library's core values and resources not to simply exist, but to thrive and continue our efforts at being environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible, leading our community for generations to come. We continue to look through a sustainable lens as we move forward on future building projects, programs and partnerships. Thanks to many, our certification is complete, but our work maintaining sustainable practices continues on.”

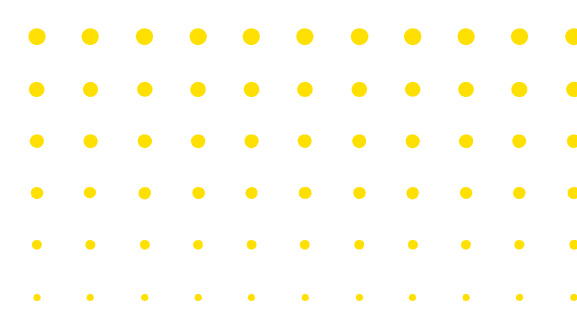
Claire Mitchell, Teacher-Librarian, Fairfield Elementary School, Massapequa, NY

→ “Going through the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program, Claire reflects, has been an educational process not only for her but for her colleagues and community. She demonstrates a deep understanding of what it means to be a certified sustainable librarian and continues to implement sustainable practices into the program to teach her students how to make informed sustainable decisions for the rest of their lives. Her work is truly remarkable, which has gained her much deserved recognition for her many achievements.”



Copiague Memorial Public Library

Testimonials Continued



Ann-Marie Kalin, School Librarian, Albert G. Prodehl Middle School, Shoreham, NY

→ “Prodehl Library continues to thrive because we are always crafting to meet the needs of curious middle schoolers today and tomorrow. The Sustainable Library Certification Program helped to guide reflection and care to those very practices that fuel our space-for that time I am grateful and inspired.”

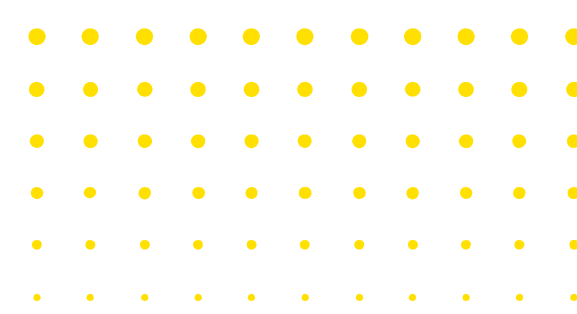
Kevin Verbese, Director, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY

→ “The Suffolk Cooperative Library System is very proud to have achieved our Sustainable Libraries Initiative certification. The program is one that we believe in deeply. As our system worked our way through the certification process we were able to learn much about ourselves and incorporate the tenets of the SLI into our organizational thinking. Our staff and board were fully invested in this process and we see our certification as a great achievement for SCLS. We will now look forward to continuing to grow SCLS' commitment to environmental stewardship, economic feasibility, and social equity.”



Copiague Memorial Public Library

Testimonials Continued



Nardia Cumberbatch, Librarian, Valencia College, Orlando, Florida

- “Completing the Sustainable Libraries Certification was a crucial step in the sustainability path of Valencia College libraries. As a result of this process, our knowledge has increased, particularly regarding the socially equitable work that Valencia libraries do in serving our historically underrepresented and vulnerable student populations. Our libraries are committed to supporting our diverse student population and ensuring equal access to resources and fostering a sense of belonging. Moreover, we look forward to continuing our work with the Office of Sustainability to reach the College’s goal of becoming carbon neutrality by 2050.”

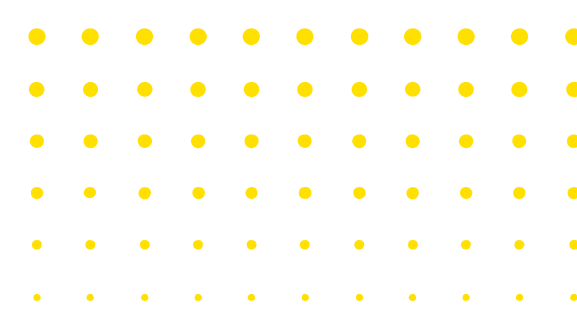
Cheryl Jones, Director, Mamakating Public Library, Wurtsboro, NY

- “Our community has been very supportive of this effort all along the way. Very early in the process, interested committee members were identified and the committee evolved over time as one person's expertise was exhausted, and another new committee member was identified. This helped us bring so many voices from the community into the process. Also, our monthly Sustainability Corner column in our newsletter has been regularly cited by patrons as a catalyst for small changes they have made in their own households and that is one of the things we are most proud of—not only that our library is certified sustainable, but that our patrons are inspired to be more mindful about their own actions and choices as well.”



Mamakating Public Library

Examples from our Certified Libraries



- The Great Giveaway, as part of Suffolk Libraries' Great Give Back Program, was held in 2021 and 2022 at the **Harborfields Public Library**. The community and library staff donated gently used or brand new unwanted items in the hopes that they may find a home. Leftover items were donated to a charitable organization. Similarly, **Shelter Island Public Library** holds monthly clothing swaps, keeping clothing out of landfills.
- Students and staff of **Valencia College Library** volunteer with Covenant House -- an organization supporting youth experiencing homelessness. Service efforts include cleaning and maintaining the facility, collecting donations, and helping with career finding.
- **Mamakating Public Library** partnered with a local environmental organization to offer trail walks and Full Moon Bike Rides. These programs encourages multi-generational connection and use of local resources.
- **School librarian Michelle Statfeld** noticed her student's excessive screentime and used her concern-fueled motivation to create activities encouraging students and their families to unplug. Michelle plans on expanding this initiative into a "Screen Free Week" at her school - embracing the benefits of human connection without screens.



Results

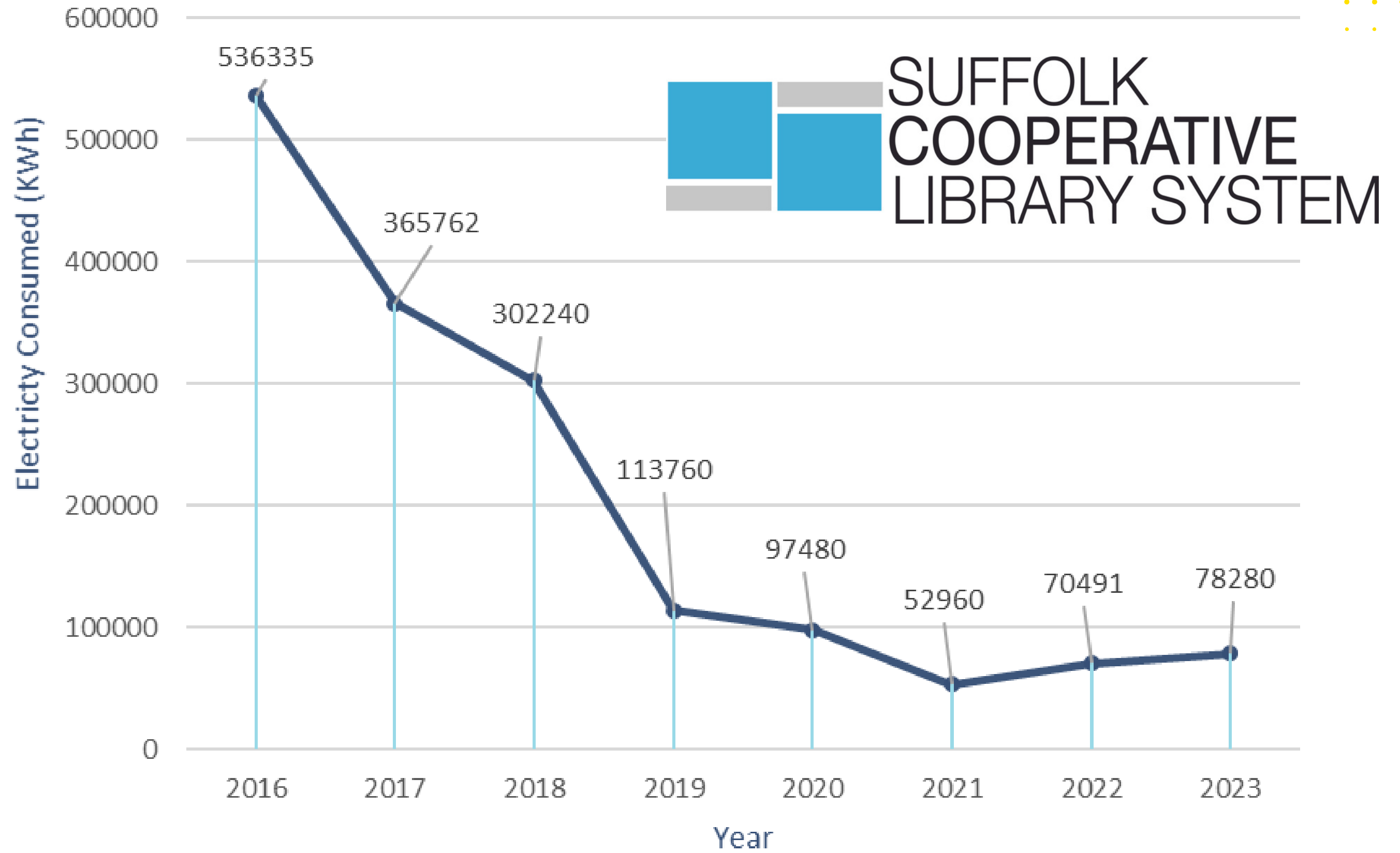
→ 2016: **\$125,000**

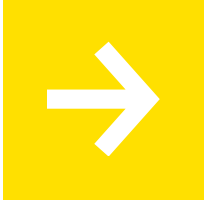
→ 2023: **\$29,000**

→ Percent change (cost): **76.8% decrease**

→ Percent change (consumption): **85.4% decrease**

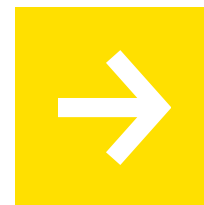
SCLS Electricity Consumption over Time





What caused the decrease between 2016 and 2021?

- 100% LED lighting
- All lights turned off (automatically or manually) when not in use
- Automated building management system and regular maintenance of HVAC systems
- Improved building insulation and proper shading on windows
- Auto-sleep settings on computers and copiers, and the conversion to laptops for all staff
- Purchase of solar panels over time



What caused the slight increase between 2021 and 2023?

- Installation and use of electric vehicle chargers in the parking lot
 - Free and available to all staff/visitors!




2016

84.6 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year 

42,759 gallons of gasoline consumed 

425,658 pounds of coal burned 

974,149 miles driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle 


73.9 homes' electricity use for one year 

2023

12.3 gasoline-powered passenger vehicles driven for one year 

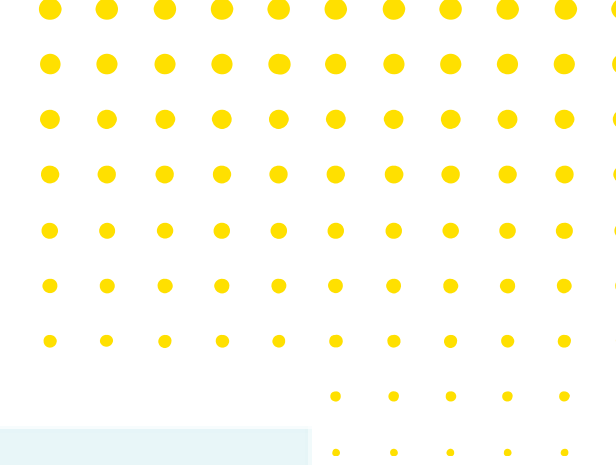
6,234 gallons of gasoline consumed 

62,057 pounds of coal burned 

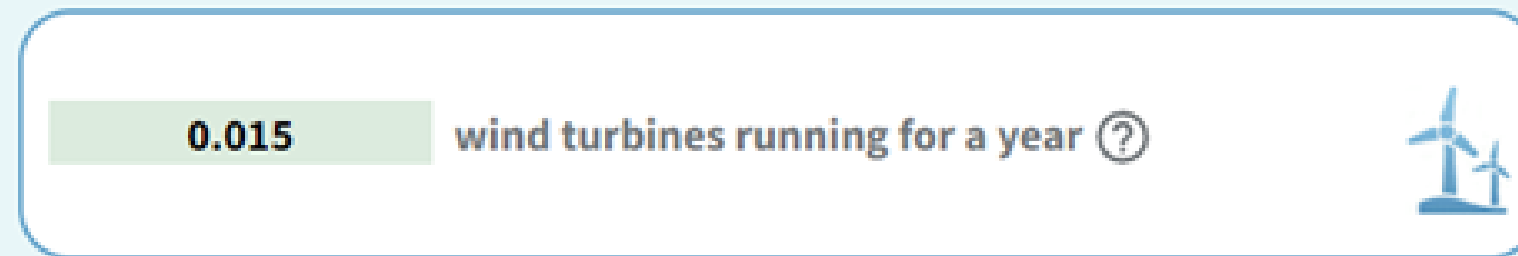
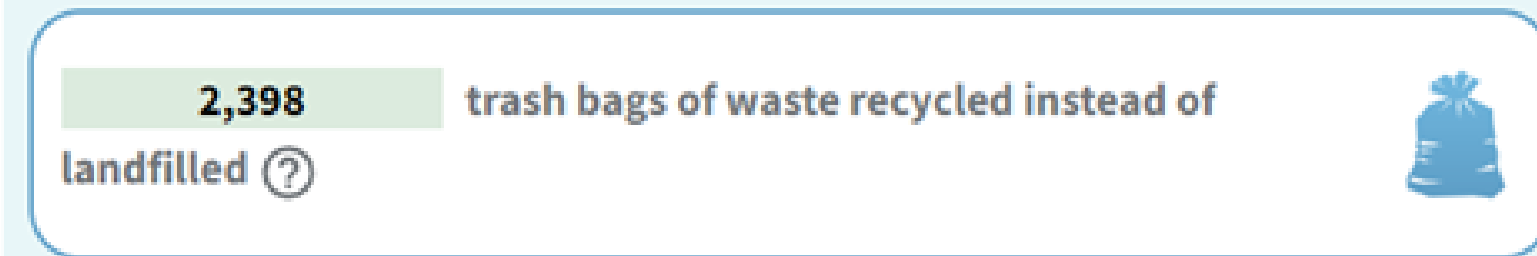
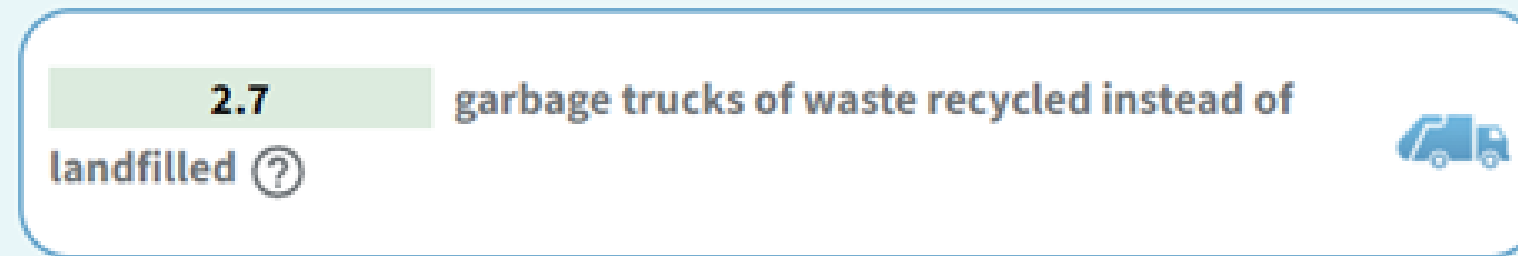
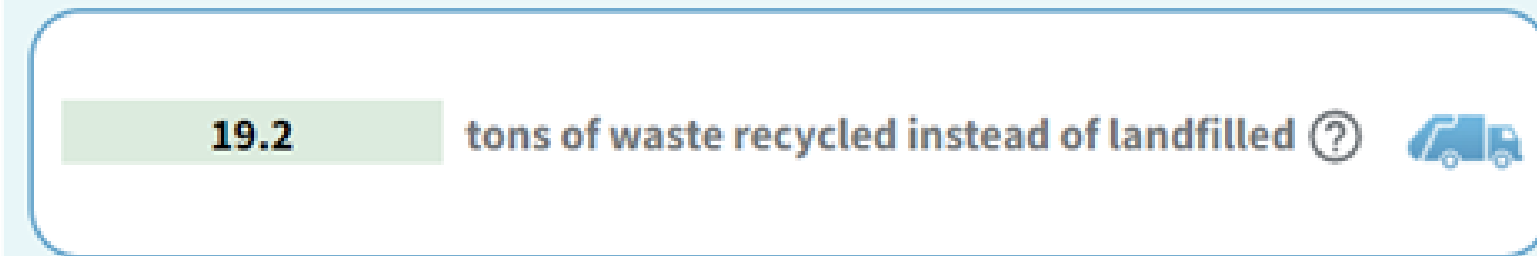
142,021 miles driven by an average gasoline-powered passenger vehicle 

10.8 homes' electricity use for one year 

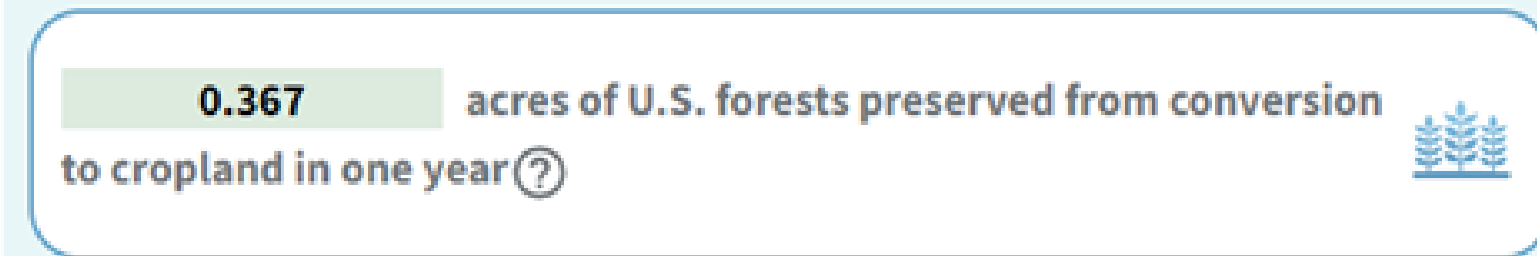
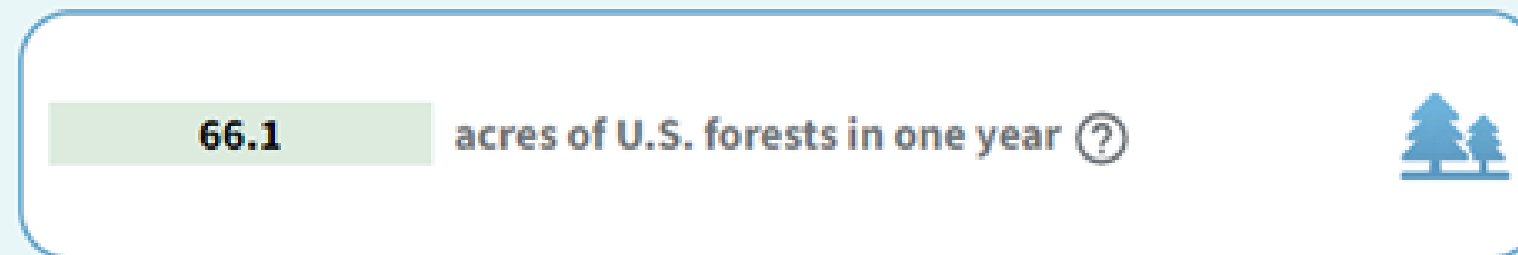
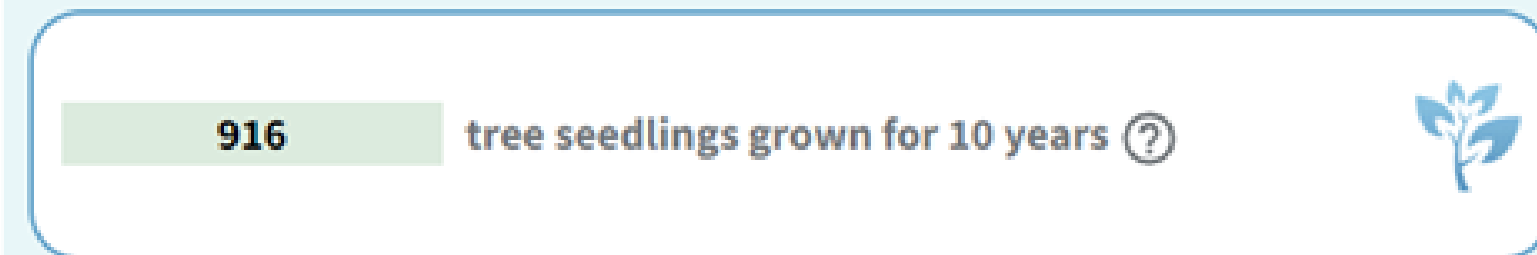
Impact



This is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions avoided by:



This is equivalent to carbon sequestered by:



Stay Tuned

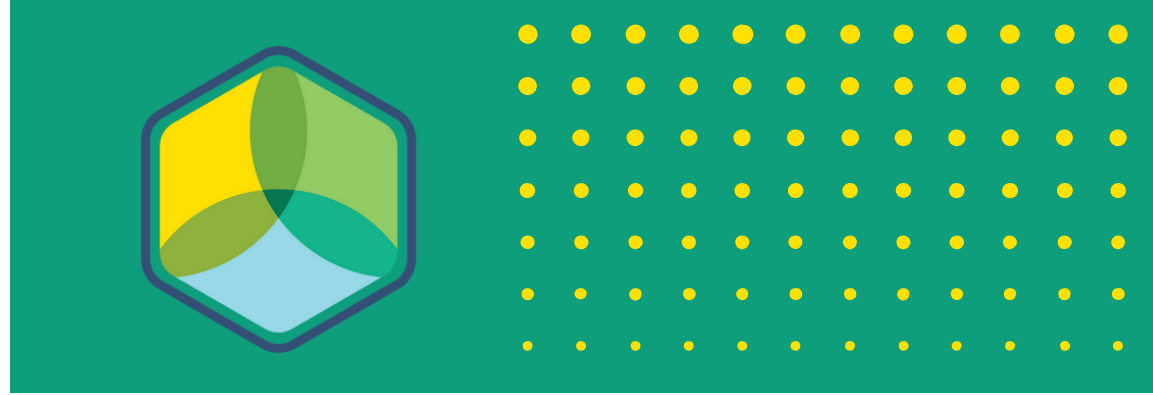
What 's Coming next from the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

- National School Librarian Program
- National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries
- New Resource: Climate Action Lab
- New board members: Nardia & Hazel



Meet our Mentors

as of December 31, 2023



Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

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



Matthew Bollerman

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



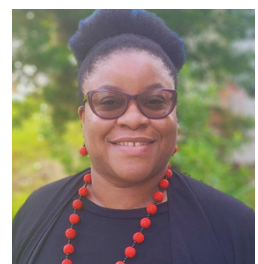
Dr. Jen Cannell

Director @ School Library System at Southern Westchester BOCES



Laura Crisci

Library Sustainability Coordinator @ Mid-Hudson Library System



Nardia Cumberbatch

Librarian at Valencia College



Jill Davis

Director @ Hendrick Hudson Free Library



Claudia Depkin

Director @ Haverstraw Kings Daughters Public Library



Debbie Engelhardt

Director @ Comsewogue Public Library



Jennifer Ferriss

Assitant Director @ Saratoga Springs Public Library

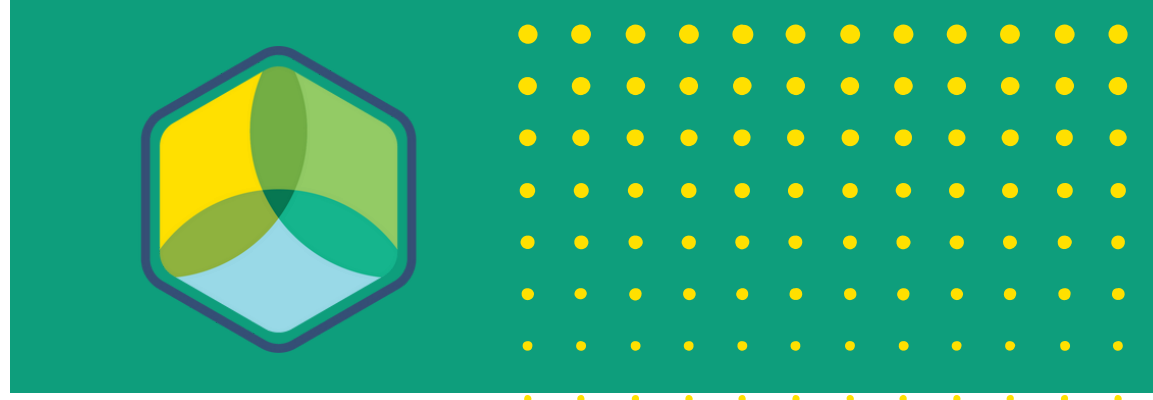


Lisa Jacobs

Director @ Longwood Public Library

Meet our Mentors

as of December 31, 2023



Lisa G. Kropp

Director @ Lindenhurst Memorial Library



Claire Mitchell

Teacher-Librarian @ Fairfield Elementary School



Joanna McCloskey

School Librarian @ Seaford High School



Hazel Onsrud

Librarian @ Curtis Memorial Library



Roger Reyes

Treasurer, Assistant Director @ Suffolk Cooperative Library System



Janet Scherer

Director @ South Huntington Public Library



Michelle Statfeld

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



Margaret Woodruff

Director @ Charlotte Library

Our Advisory Board

as of December 31, 2023



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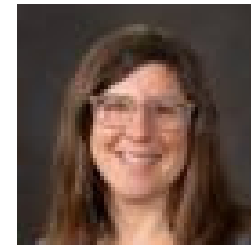
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**Sustainable
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Social Media

