



**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

October 2024



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Libraries  
Initiative**

# SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates  
from the Sustainable Libraries  
Initiative

## Issue Contents:

- SLI Updates
- National Climate Action Strategy
- Member News
- For Your Calendar

## New Partnerships!



Keep reading to learn more details about our new and  
exciting partnerships with TWO library associations!

# SLI UPDATES

## The SLI Partners with The Association of Research Libraries

ASSOCIATION  
OF RESEARCH  
LIBRARIES



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The Association of Research Libraries, a nonprofit membership organization of select research libraries and archives in the US and Canada, has partnered with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative to help bring sustainability resources to their members and exemplify their core value of sustainability in accordance with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

With this partnership, the ARL becomes the first nationwide partnership for the SLI and aims to invite more academic libraries to the table in discussions about climate action and social equity work -- providing evidence that libraries of all kinds, shapes, and sizes have the potential to make a difference and be leaders in the fight against environmental issues.

"We are excited for this opportunity to partner with ARL and more deeply connect with the research library community," said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Co-Founder and President of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, "ARL's commitment to advance an equitable, enduring, research environment dovetails wonderfully with the SLI's mission to empower library leaders to intentionally address climate change through their work and co-create thriving communities. We think this partnership will supercharge this work across the academic library community and therefore campuses across North America."

ARL members receive one-free year of SLI annual membership and a 20% discount on the Sustainable Library Certification Program. Cohorts of five or more libraries receive a 25% discount on certification, supporting the principle that there is power in collective action.

For more information, click the links below or email [sliaadmin@suffolknet.org](mailto:sliaadmin@suffolknet.org) to speak directly with SLI Staff.

ARL Press Release

## The Virginia Library Association Becomes the SLI's Sixth State Association Partnership



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The Sustainable Libraries Initiative has partnered with the Virginia Library Association to bring a wealth of resources to their members in the movement to build resilient communities and combat the impacts of climate change and social injustice.

Following in the footsteps of Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York, the Virginia Library Association signed an agreement to collaborate with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative for a minimum of one year: providing valuable resources such as sustainable tools, webinars, vendors, program ideas, and educational materials.

Members of all our partnered state associations receive one free year of annual membership to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and a 20% discount on the award-winning Sustainable library Certification Program. Cohorts of five or more libraries receive a 25% discount on certification, supporting the principle that there is power in collective action.

Click the links below to learn more about the partnership or reach out to SLI staff at [sliadmin@suffolknet.org](mailto:sliadmin@suffolknet.org)

## Three SLI Academic Institutions Recognized by AASHE in the 2024 Sustainable Campus Index



The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) recently released their annual Sustainable Campus Index: a document highlighting and ranking colleges and universities across the world on the basis of sustainable practices.

Several institutions with libraries currently participating in the Sustainable Library Certification Program were celebrated by the index in recognition of their broader campus achievements.

**San Diego State University** was ranked #5 in the *Curriculum* section for “developing and offering learning opportunities in sustainability;” **The University of Maryland** was ranked #5 in the *Waste* section for “waste minimization and reduction construction, waste diversion, and hazardous waste management;” and **Cal Poly Humboldt** was ranked #5 in the *Investment & Finance* section for “sustainable investment, committees for responsible investing, and investment disclosure” as well as #4 in the *Overall Top Performers (Master’s Institutions)* category.

In addition, **Cal Poly Humboldt** was also recognized as one of the first institutions in the United States -- alongside Bard College -- to earn a Plastic Reduction Partner Certification from the National Wildlife Federation’s *Campus Race to Zero Waste*.

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is proud to see the achievements of these academic institutions acknowledged and congratulates them for work well done. We are delighted to be considered by these institutions as a resource to bring them closer to their goals.

Read the full index with the link below.

## ALA Awards the School Library Systems Association of New York State for Sustainable Initiatives



**The following is an excerpt from the official press release linked below:**

“The American Library Association (ALA) is pleased to announce that the School Library Systems Association of New York State is the 2024 winner of the EBSCO Information Services Library Staff Development Award for their proposal, *School Library Sustainability*.

The award consists of \$3,500 and a 24k gold-framed citation. It is given to a library organization whose application demonstrates greatest merit for a program of staff development designed to further the goals and objectives of the library organization....Their award-winning project is to host a virtual statewide professional workshop to empower school librarians to join the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP). The certification process encourages reflective practice, leadership development, peer mentoring, networking, community building, and, most importantly, sustainable school library programs across New York State.

Their proposal addresses two needs: increasing the impact of school librarians on student achievement by increasing the number of sustainable school library programs. This project matches SLSA's mission to ‘To strengthen, support and advocate for our members as they foster quality school library programs.’ Helping school library programs become sustainable will strengthen community support for libraries despite retirements or staff changes.

The target group for this project is any interested librarian in New York State. Still, encouragement will be given by SLSA Directors to those new to the profession as they have the most years of service to students ahead of them.”

# National Climate Action Strategy For Libraries Implementation Guide Available now!

If you haven't yet already, check out **The National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries Implementation Guide**: a project co-produced by the American Library Association and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative to ensure that libraries remain a vital and responsive resource in their communities: making an impact on lives for generations to come in the face of climate change and its consequences.

SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, and principal author of the strategy and implementation guide, said "There is no doubt that this will take strategic, deliberate prioritization by library administrators, trustees, and, in fact – all library stakeholders. With the rapid change in climate impacting all corners of our country, libraries can no longer afford to ignore their role in making a difference for their communities when it comes to actively reducing environmental impact and adapting to the existing consequences."

Leverage the National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries to guide your sustainability goals or bring your strategic planning to the next level. Check key areas to focus on such as climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and justice work. Check out the strategy and read the official press release with the buttons below.



NCAS Press Release

# MEMBER NEWS

*We welcome our new members to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative! Thank you for your joining our community of practice, and demonstrating your commitment to making the world a better place. We're happy to have you!*

## **Sustainable Library Certification Program Members:**



Fraser Valley Regional Library  
Abbotsford, British Columbia,  
Canada



Dr. Jacqueline Liesch,  
School Librarian  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin



Melissa King, School  
Librarian  
Gaithersburg, Maryland



Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan



University of Maryland  
Libraries  
College Park, Maryland

## Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

### Library Systems:

- Capital District Library Council      Latham, New York

### Personal Members:

- Daisy Singh      Orono, Maine
- Kate Wingate      Nashville, Tennessee
- Mary Biddle      Northampton, Massachusetts

### Public Libraries:

- Chillicothe Public Library District      Chillicothe, Illinois
- Belfast Free Library      Belfast, Maine
- Lithgow Public Library      Augusta, Maine
- Normal Public Library      Normal, Illinois
- Northborough Free Library      Northborough, Massachusetts
- Readfield Community Library      Readfield, Maine
- Richmond Memorial Library      Batavia, New York
- Seekonk Public Library      Seekonk, Massachusetts
- West Orange Public Library      West Orange, New Jersey





# FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**October 3**

## SLCP Meetup: Waste & Materials

1:00 pm EST

Join us for a meeting with guest speakers as we discuss waste and material management in the library setting! Time is included to ask any topic-specific or general questions about the SLCP. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



**October 15**

## An Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program

11:00 am EST

During this webinar, you will learn about the Sustainable Library Certification Program. A panel of speakers whose libraries completed the SLCP will describe their journey and share their library's experiences.

REGISTER NOW



**October 9-11**

## Iowa Library Association Annual Conference

Swing by our booth for a visit, register for our newsletter, grab some sustainable swag, learn more about your opportunities with the SLI provided by your state library association, or watch our program on Thursday, October 10th at 11:00 AM with ILA President Julie Finch!

**November 14**

## SLCP Meetup: Collective Impact

1:00 pm EST

This month's meetup topic discusses how to incorporate the principles of social equity and find solutions to complex social issues within your library! Join SLI staff and guest speakers in a group discussion. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



October SLCP Meetup - Waste and Materials

November SLCP Meetup - Collective Impact

## ILA Conference



Iowans, come find us at the Iowa Library Association Annual Conference from October 9th to 11th in Des Moines!

Swing by our booth for a visit, register for our newsletter, grab some sustainable swag, and learn more about your opportunities with the SLI provided by your state library association.

We also have a program slot! SLI Sustainability Coordinator Alex Blend will be hosting a fireside chat featuring ILA President Julie Finch to discuss the trailblazing efforts of libraries in creating sustainable and resilient communities. Catch the breakout session on Thursday, October 10th at 11:00 AM.

Booth number and conference session meeting room to be announced. Be sure to follow us on social media to catch any updates!



@sustainablelibrariesinitiative



@sustainablelib2



Sustainable Libraries Initiative



Sustainable Libraries Initiative (public group)

# Upcoming Presentation at the New England Library Association Annual Conference

Iowa isn't the only state getting a visit from the SLI in October! Attendees of the New England Library Association (NELA) Annual Conference are encouraged to view the following presentation:

## New England Library Association Annual Conference

### **Equitable & Climate-Smart Library Programming**

presented by: SLI advisory board members Hazel Onsrud and Margaret Woodruff alongside certified SLI member Reni Cunningham from Concord Public Library

Monday, October 21st at 9:00 am

"Join us to learn from members of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative about library programs that can support your communities' action on climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate justice. We'll share how to work with partners to identify and address local needs with a global sustainability lens. Gain practical, replicable and cost-effective examples from presenters who have run hundreds of sustainability programs. We'll highlight how to use your materials to support your activities and how these types of programs can broaden your collection's use. Attendees will come away with resources to replicate successful SLI programs, share theirs, expand their collections, and better serve and delight their patrons."



Click the links below to see the official postings.

NELA Conference

# Upcoming Introductory Webinar

Save the date!

## **An Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP)**

Tuesday, October 15th at 11:00 AM Eastern

### *Panelists:*

*Janet Scherer, Director, South Huntington Public Library, SLI Advisory Board*

*Lisa Jacobs, Library Director, Longwood Public Library, SLCP Mentor*

*Lisa Kropp, Library Director, Lindenhurst Memorial Library, President-New York Library Association, SLI Advisory Board*

### *Moderator:*

*Alex Blend, Sustainability Coordinator, Sustainable Libraries Initiative*

During this webinar, you will learn about the Sustainable Library Certification Program. A panel of speakers whose libraries completed the SLCP will describe their journey and share their library's experiences.

Are you a member of one of our partner associations (Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, or ARL)? Did you know that you're entitled to one free year of annual membership to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and a 20% discount on our certification program?

Are you not a member of any of these organizations but still interested in learning more about what the SLI has to offer?

On October 15th, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative will be hosting an Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program geared towards helping new and prospective members make the most of their SLI resources and learn more about how to get involved with our award-winning program!

Register for the webinar with the button below!



An Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program

PrintRelease empowers SLCP members to offset the paper and fiber-based materials consumption of your library, in order to sustain and grow our global forestry system. SLCP members can [submit your paper purchases](#) here.



OFFICE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Thanks to the SLI's partnership with CCP Solutions, Sustainable Library Certification Program members have collectively offset the equivalent of 19.49M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.34K trees!  
Keep up the good work!



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