

[View this email in your browser](#)



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

December 2024



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates
from the Sustainable Libraries
Initiative

Issue Contents:

- Congratulations Certified Members!
- Member Spotlight
- SLI Updates
- Member News
- For Your Calendar

Congratulations!



RCLS | **RAMAPO
CATSKILL
LIBRARY
SYSTEM**

Middletown, NY

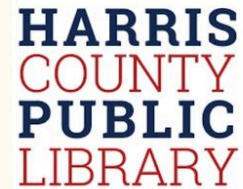
on becoming **certified sustainable!** We commend you for
your commitment and achievement. Learn more with the
links below!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Harris County Public Library

Location: Houston, Texas

Membership: SLCP Public Library



Pictured: Waste audit at the county jail conducted on kitchen waste by staff from various Harris County departments.

Harris County Public Library (HCPL), a 2024 recipient of the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, has found benefit in their extensive community partnerships.

With their Office of County Administration's (OCA) Sustainability Division, the library has conducted repair cafes, waste audits, and has begun the process of establishing multiple library branches as climate resilience hubs. Looking forward in this partnership, HCPL has plans to pilot a composting program in 2025 at several library branches located in or near Justice 40 communities.



Pictured: Volunteers and organizers at the September 2024 Repair Café at the West University Branch Library -- one of 4 events organized in 2024 by HCPL staff and Harris County Office of Administration - Sustainability staff in partnership with volunteers from the community.



Pictured: Story time conducted at the Octavia Fields Branch by volunteers from League of Women Voters of Houston

Another partnership bringing many benefits to the HCPL community is the library's partnership with the League of Women Voters of Houston (LWVH). Working together, the organizations provide story times, voter education, and voter registration. Additionally, HCPL became the first library system in the country to provide access to their local *League of Women Voters Guide* on Libby -- doing so equitably by making the content available in both eBook and audiobook format as well as in both English and Spanish.



Pictured: Texas Library Association District 8 Conference (11/2/2024) Left to Right: Anjela Martinez (Harris County Public Library), Laura Smith (Harris County Public Library), Allison Gower (League of Women Voters of Houston), Lisa Lin (Harris County Office of County Administration - Sustainability)

The Harris County Public Library, the LWVH, and the OCA-Sustainability Division recently presented together at a regional conference about the initiatives done in tandem.

"We are not alone in this work. We have strengthened and expanded partnerships within our county administration and the community. This stronger network contributes so much to our collective capacity for building resiliency into the lives of those we serve."

Laura Smith, Collection Development Librarian at Harris County Public Library.

Have a great idea you're proud of? Fill out the form linked below to submit your idea for future editions of the newsletter!

[Harris County Public Library Website](#)

[Form for Submissions](#)

SLI UPDATES

The SLI Receives Our First Corporate Sponsorship!

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is thrilled to announce our first corporate sponsorship by SSI Cards: a trusted and long-standing leader in the library card market! SSI's Teslin laminated cards allow libraries the opportunity to make better choices for their library card supply -- moving away from the traditional environmentally harmful PVC library cards.

"Our mission is to help libraries better serve their patrons with innovative, durable, quality library cards and direct mail. In conjunction with PPG, SSI developed the Teslin laminated card, offering an alternative to environmentally harmful cards that were the only option at that time," commented Jeff Ames, the Vice President of Sales and Manufacturing for SSI.

"Our commitment to the environment and innovation led SSI to create the NVIO card, a durable and biodegradable laminated product for applications such as gift cards, direct mail postcards and mailers, library cards, restaurant menus, and more. NVIO™ substrates are available as recycled paper, Biodegradable Teslin™, and standard paper/board stocks."

Founded in 1969, we've been creating eco friendly library cards for thousands of libraries, from small towns and rural counties to large metropolitan areas. SSI has the capabilities to handle the small budget of a small town and the production capabilities to handle large production runs for the biggest!"

As an added benefit of this sponsorship, SSI will offer free shipping for all NVIO library cards ordered by members of the SLI. Learn more with the link below.



Biodegradation rates of NVIO™ Cards and magnetic stripe meet the latest ISO standards, ASTM D5511-18.

SSI Cards: NVIO Eco-Friendly Cards

Conference News

The SLI attended the New York Library Association Annual Conference from November 6th to 9th in Syracuse!



Thank you to all the members who stopped by to say hello and all the new faces that we had the opportunity to meet! We appreciate you taking the time to stop by our table or attend our program.

If you are a NYLA member and haven't yet taken advantage of your SLI member benefits, click the link below to participate or email SLI staff for more information at sliadmin@suffolknet.org.

SustainRT Award Nominations

The American Library Association's Sustainability Round Table has put out a call for nominations for their *Citation for Wellness in the Workplace* award: recognizing libraries that go above and beyond in meeting the wellness needs of their staff in the areas of continuing education, wellness, positive work environment, unions, salaries, gender equity, pay equity initiatives, and other activities designed to improve the salaries and status of librarians and other library workers.

All ALA members are welcome to complete the form below to nominate a library or organization they feel meets the criteria. Learn more with the link below.



[SustainRT Award Nominations](#)

Help Us Build Our Community!



The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is putting out a call for idea sharing from our members!

If you have any great **sustainable program ideas, sustainable vendors, policy examples, grant resources, or sustainable book recommendations**, please consider submitting your ideas to share with the SLI community.

As a community of practice, the SLI thrives on the diversity and dedication of our members to uplift and support each other down the same path. By sharing your ideas, you're helping out your peers and positioning yourself as an engaged member of the community.

Submissions are most needed by libraries/librarians located **outside of New York State, or in the school or academic setting**, but we welcome any and all suggestions.

The SLI also welcomes advocates interested in speaking at future SLCP meetups! Every month, the SLI hosts a meeting to discuss one broad aspect of sustainability. Although the meetups follow the pattern of the Sustainable Library Certification Program, all are welcome to join! To be eligible to speak, your library must be partaking in or have completed the SLCP. We are simply looking for volunteers to talk about their experience with the respective section and answer questions. Most presenters speak for 10-15 minutes and some like to provide a visual such as slides or pictures, but there are no strict guidelines: feel free to make it your own!

Thank you for your consideration!



Forms for submissions linked below (**you must be logged in to view them**) or email us at sliadmin@suffolknet.org to make your suggestion.

[Program Idea Suggestion Form](#)

[Sustainable Vendor Suggestion Form](#)

[Grant Resource Suggestion Form](#)

SLCP Meetup Speaker Volunteer Form

All Other Suggestions: Email sladmin@suffolknet.org

Upcoming Sustainability Webinars of Interest

Climate Change Communication: How and Why to do it in Libraries

Thursday, December 5th, at 3:00 PM EST

Presented by SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Vice President Matthew Bollerman, and Research Director of the Association for Science and Technology Centers Rose Hendricks

"Explore effective climate change communication strategies to engage communities and inspire action."

Introduction to the SLI for ARL Members

Tuesday, December 12th, at 1:30 PM EST

Presented by co-founders SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Vice President Matthew Bollerman

"During this webinar, we will introduce the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and the members-only resources available to you for the coming year as an Association of Research Libraries member!"

Introduction to the SLCP for ARL Members

Tuesday, December 17th, at 1:30 PM EST

Presented by SLI President and co-founder Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Valencia College Librarian and SLI Advisory Board Member Nardia Cumberbatch

"During this webinar, you will learn about the Sustainable Library Certification Program! Hear firsthand from a member who has completed the SLCP for academic libraries describe their journey and share their experiences."

Edi and Neal's Book Club - December 2024 Discussion: Helena Asamoah-Hassan's Digital Literacy, Inclusivity and Sustainable Development in Africa

Wednesday, December 18th, at 2:00 PM EST

"René Tanner (co-author of *Libraries and Sustainability: Programs and Practices for Community Impact*) and Helena Asamoah-Hassan (editor of *Digital Literacy, Inclusivity and Sustainable Development in Africa*) will delve into this "triple bottom line" question of sustainability, which uniquely explores sustainability by putting both African and American perspectives in conversation. Nkem E. Osuigwe, who contributed to Asamoah-Hassan's edited volume, is also expected as a discussant."

Climate Change Communication: How and Why to do it in Libraries

Introduction to the SLI for ARL Members

Introduction to the SLCP for ARL Members

Edi and Neal's Book Club Discussion

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:



Lynnfield
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lynnfield Public Library
Lynnfield, Massachusetts



Richmond
Memorial Library
BATAVIA, NEW YORK

Richmond Memorial Library
Batavia, New York

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

Public Libraries:

- Arcadia Public Library Arcadia, Wisconsin
- Cambridge Public Library Cambridge, Massachusetts
- East Lansing Public Library East Lansing, Michigan
- Rockbridge Regional Library Lexington, Virginia
- Thompson Free Library Dover-Foxcroft, Maine

Academic Libraries:

- University of Ottawa Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Personal Members:

- Christina Amarillas Avondale, Arizona
- Kat Baumgartner Great Neck, New York
- Rebecca Kasten Concord, New Hampshire

Library Systems:

- Southeastern New York Library Resources Council Highland, New York

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

December 5

SLCP Meetup: Social Cohesion

1:00 pm EST

Whether it's making a stronger commitment to support DEI, learning and adapting to the needs of your community, or becoming a source of education on cultural competency - building social cohesion in your library is important. Join SLI staff and guest speakers in a group discussion. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



December 5

Climate Change Communication: How and why to do it in libraries

3:00 pm EST

Join us to explore effective communication strategies developed through the SLI, which has been advancing this work for over a decade, and the new National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries.

REGISTER NOW



December 12

An Introduction to the SLI (for ARL members)

1:30 pm EST

During this webinar, we will introduce the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and the members-only resources available to you for the coming year as an Association of Research Libraries member!

REGISTER NOW



December 17

An Introduction to the SLCP (for ARL members)

1:30 pm EST

During this webinar, you will learn about the Sustainable Library Certification Program! Hear firsthand from a member who has completed the SLCP for academic libraries describe their journey and share their experiences.

REGISTER NOW



December SLCP Meetup: Social Cohesion

Climate Change Communication: How and Why to do it in Libraries

Introduction to the SLI for ARL Members

Introduction to the SLCP for ARL Members

PrintReleaf 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.



Thanks to the SLI's partnership with CCP Solutions, Sustainable Library Certification Program members have **collectively offset the equivalent of 20.62M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.48K trees!**
Keep up the good work!



Copyright © 2024 Suffolk Cooperative Library System, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

