An Introduction to your membership in the

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Presented by: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, SLI Co-Founder & Advisory Board President &

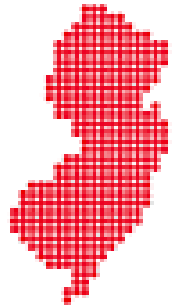
Matthew Bollerman, SLI Co-Founder & Advisory Board Vice President

Maine Library Association

VLA
VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES

ILA | IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



NEW JERSEY NJLA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

NYLA

Vermont Community Foundation

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
The Voice of the Library Community

Massachusetts Library Association

A new opportunity…

- Free Sustainable Libraries Initiative membership for all VLA Members
- Discount on the Sustainable Library Certification Program

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

VLA VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Launched in 2015 as a community of practice for library leaders interested in addressing issues related to **climate change, community resilience and securing a vital, vibrant, and visible place** in the community/on campuses/in schools for libraries.

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Image Source: National Centers for Environmental Information, NOAA

The climate crisis will profoundly affect the health **of every child alive today.**

THE LANCET

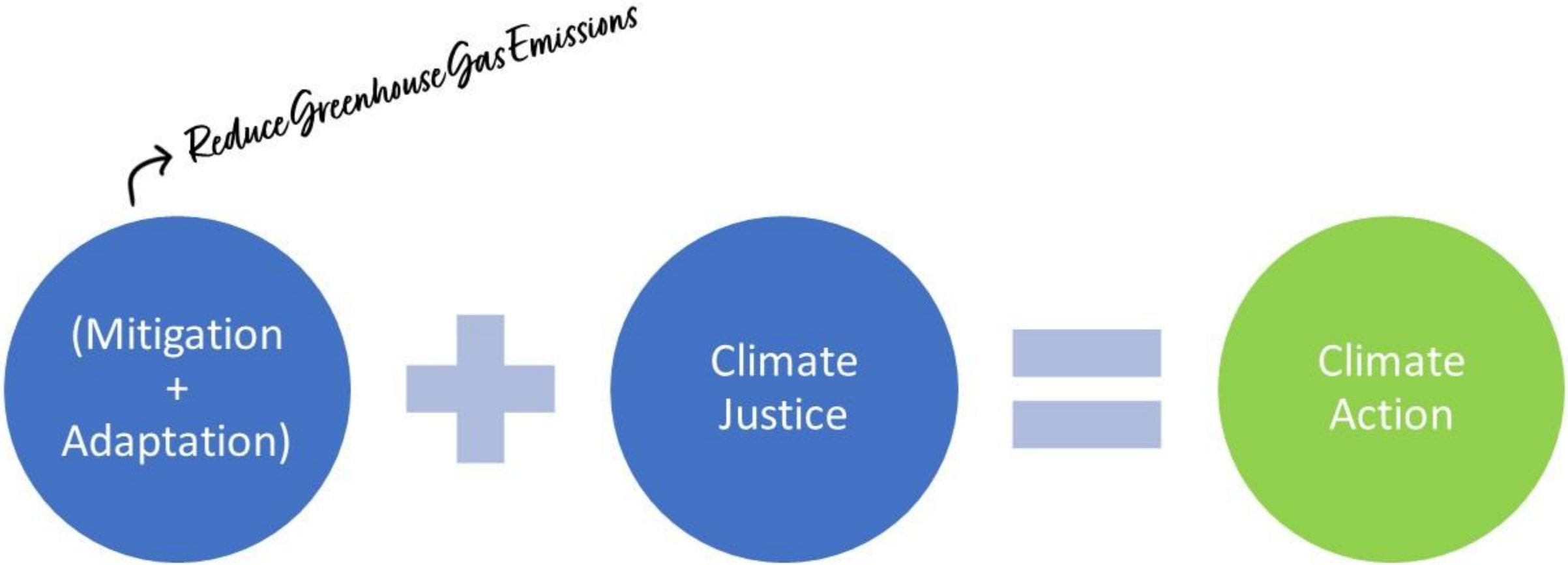
"**Climate change** is the single **greatest threat to global health**, a "**code red for humanity**," and is this generation's **grandest challenge**."

Sustainability = Core Value

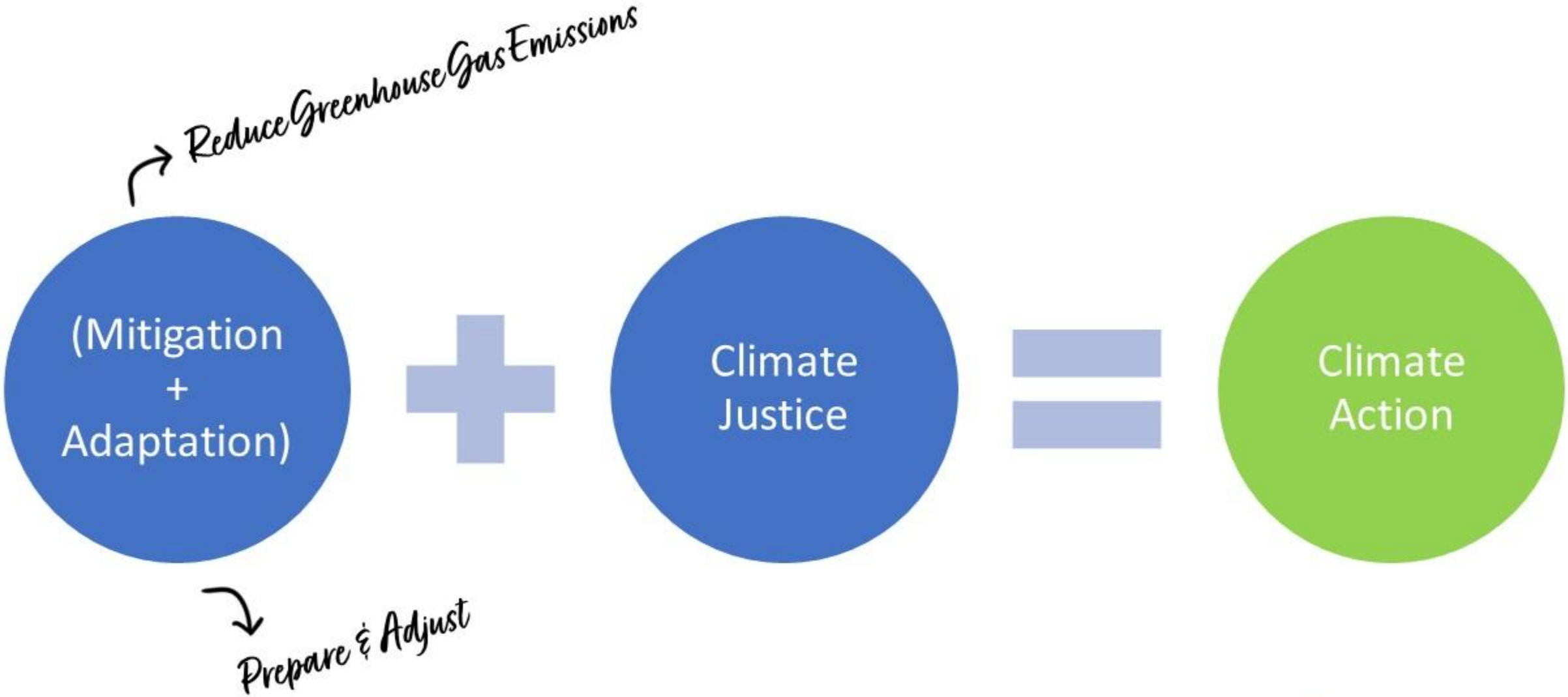
ALA American Library Association

PROJECT DRAWDOWN

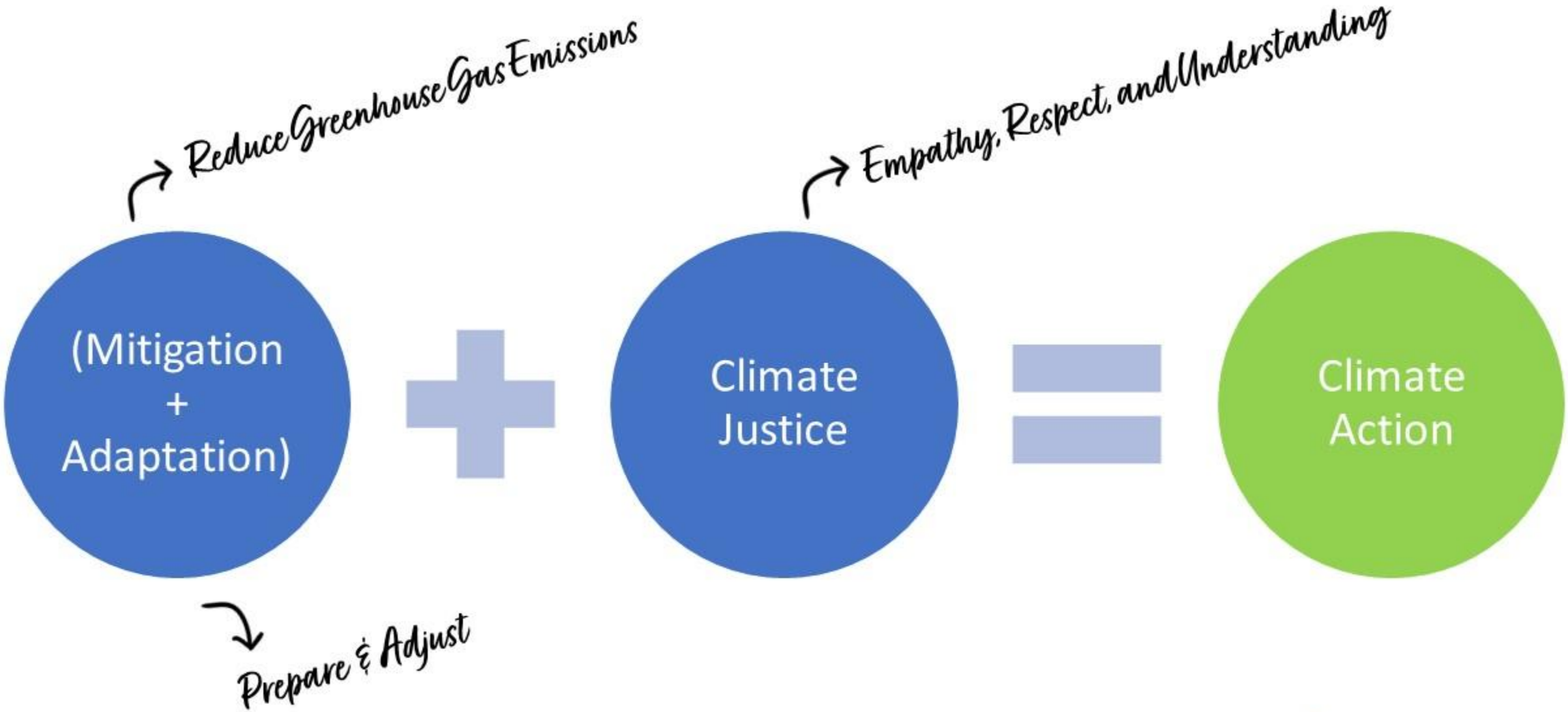
Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative



Sustainable Libraries Initiative



Sustainable Libraries Initiative



Sustainable Libraries Initiative

National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries

1 | Climate Change Mitigation

Libraries align greenhouse gas emission reduction goals with those that international climate scientists and policy makers have indicated are necessary to prevent catastrophic cascading effects. This strategy recommends a goal for all libraries to reduce their institution's greenhouse gas emissions by 43%, from 2015 levels, by 2030 and to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.[1]

2 | Climate Change Adaptation & Contributions Community Resilience

Libraries adopt both internal disaster preparedness plans and strategic goals that speak to the most likely climate hazards facing their area to contribute to their community's resilience.

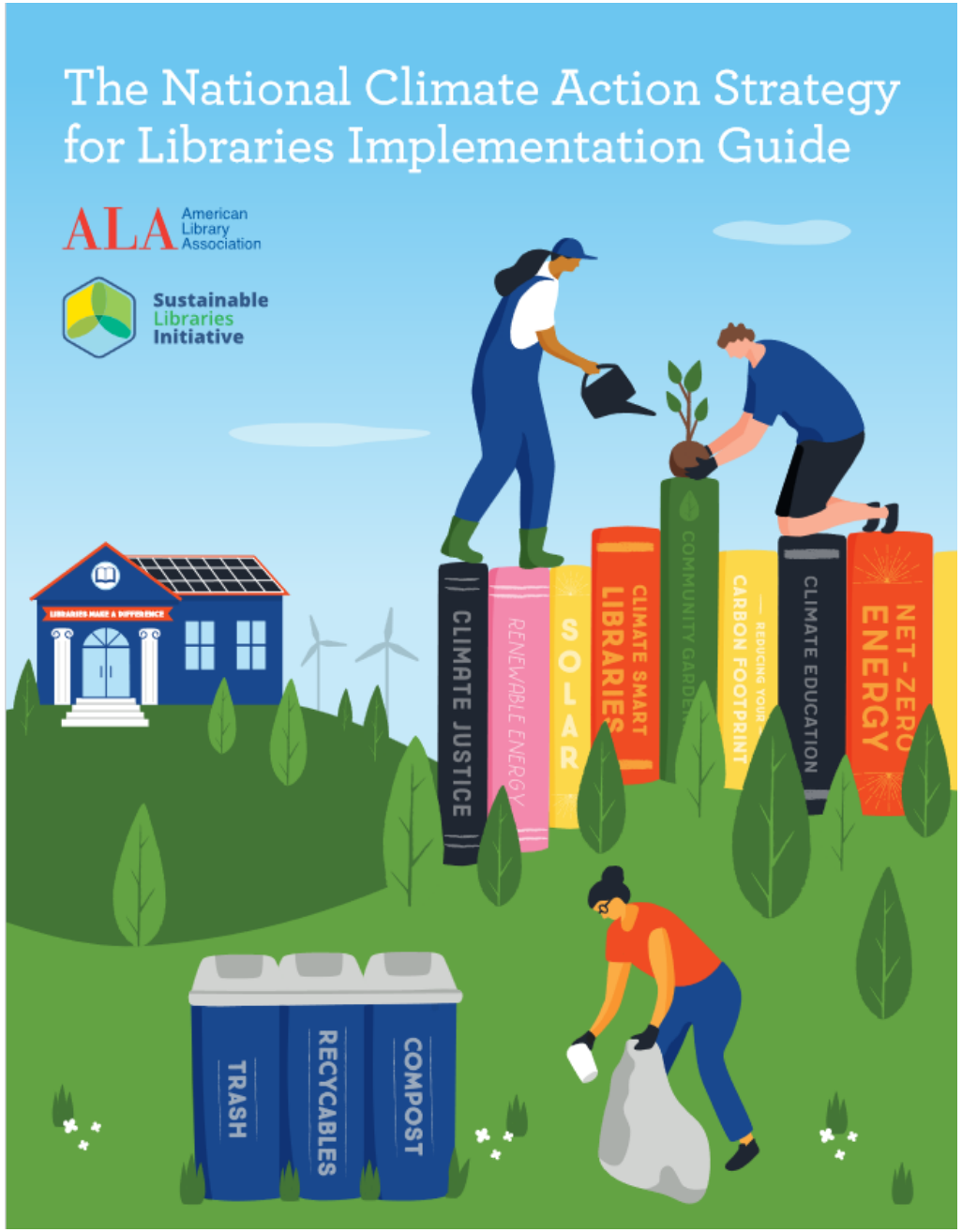
3 | Climate Justice Work

Libraries harness the transformative power of education for climate justice and develop relationships with local community organizations working on climate justice to embed a deeper awareness of the intersection of human and civil rights with climate stewardship than is presently found.[2]

[1] Paris Agreement, United Nations, https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf
[2] Principles of Climate Justice, Mary Robinson Foundation, https://www.mrfcj.org/principles-of-climate-justice/harness-the-transformative-power-of-education-for-climate-stewardship/

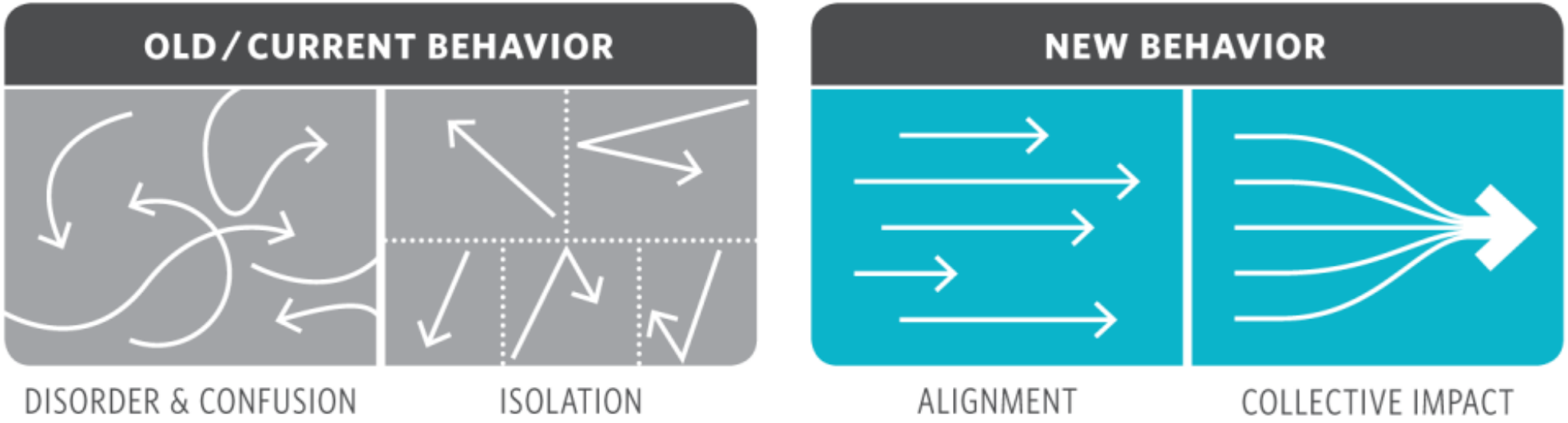
Sustainable Libraries Initiative

ALA American Library Association



COLLECTIVE IMPACT

CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES
ALA American Library Association



Graphic: AllHandsRaised.org

Sustainable Libraries

- ✓ **Strong & Authentic Institutions** that live their values out loud
- ✓ Catalyst for **Social Cohesion & Civic Participation** in Communities
- ✓ Working on **Climate Mitigation** (reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GhG)
- ✓ Active Participants in **Climate Adaptation** (strengthening community resilience)

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

“You've got to think about **big things** while you're doing **small things**, so that all the small things **go in the right direction.**”

-Alvin Toffler , futurist

Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Growing Community of Practice

200+ libraries across the country are enrolled in the Sustainable Library Certification Program

- Access to the final presentations of certified libraries
- Sample policies
- Vendor list populated by libraries in the program
- Practical advice at monthly meet-ups
- Stories from the field in our monthly newsletter

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Benefits

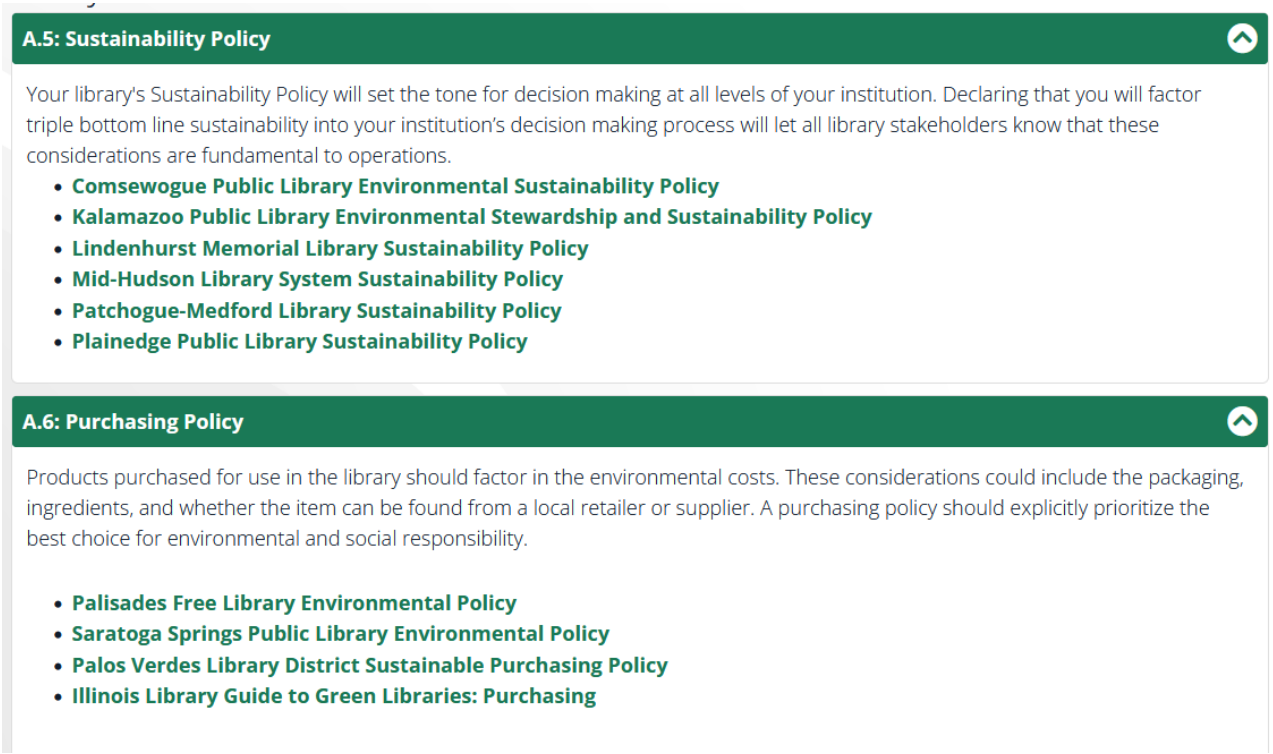
Available upon claiming your free 12-month SLI Membership

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

VLA | VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Policy Examples

- A.5: Sustainability Policy
- A.6: Purchasing Policy
- D.3: Library Travel Policy
- D.5: No-Idling Policy
- H.1: Partnership Policy
- I.1: Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- J.1: Commitment to Community Resiliency
- L.1: Collection Development Policy



A.5: Sustainability Policy

Your library's Sustainability Policy will set the tone for decision making at all levels of your institution. Declaring that you will factor triple bottom line sustainability into your institution's decision making process will let all library stakeholders know that these considerations are fundamental to operations.

- **Comsewogue Public Library Environmental Sustainability Policy**
- **Kalamazoo Public Library Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Policy**
- **Lindenhurst Memorial Library Sustainability Policy**
- **Mid-Hudson Library System Sustainability Policy**
- **Patchogue-Medford Library Sustainability Policy**
- **Plainedge Public Library Sustainability Policy**

A.6: Purchasing Policy

Products purchased for use in the library should factor in the environmental costs. These considerations could include the packaging, ingredients, and whether the item can be found from a local retailer or supplier. A purchasing policy should explicitly prioritize the best choice for environmental and social responsibility.

- **Palisades Free Library Environmental Policy**
- **Saratoga Springs Public Library Environmental Policy**
- **Palos Verdes Library District Sustainable Purchasing Policy**
- **Illinois Library Guide to Green Libraries: Purchasing**

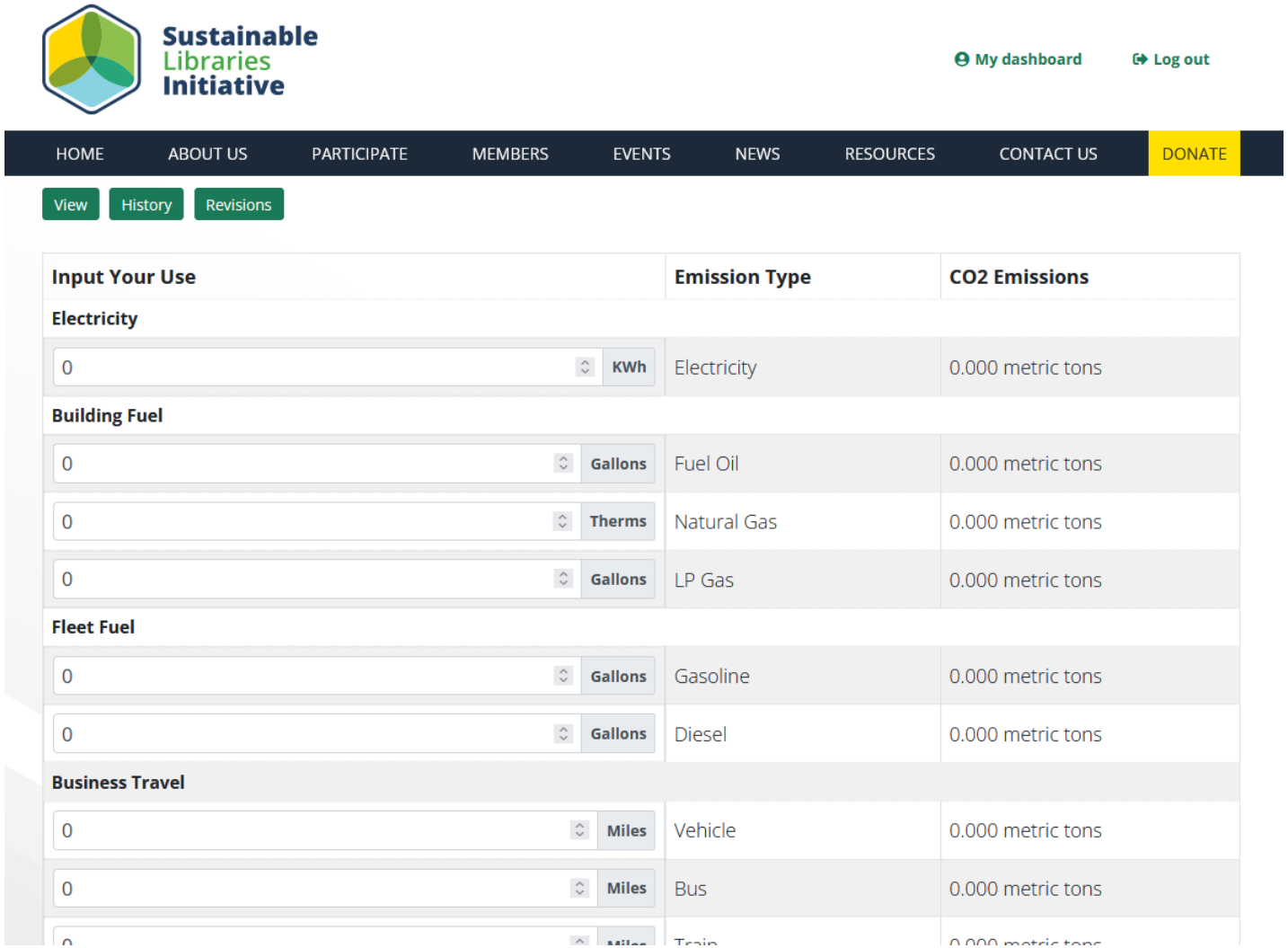
Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Live & On Demand Training

- Library for Health and Wellbeing: A Strategic Framework
- Climate Adaptation for Library Facilities
- Sustainability Challenge: Month-by-Month
- Repair Cafes
- Workplace Wellness
- Beyond Lightbulbs and Solar Panels: Triple Bottom Line Sustainability
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in a Sustainable Library
- Community Gardening
- Measuring Sustainability in Libraries

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Custom CO_2 Calculator



Program Idea Bank

Bee Hotels

Bees may be some of the hardest workers, but so are Lindenhurst's Summer Camps Campers!

Audience: Teens

Program Type: Educational

More Details

Local Snacks, Global Issues

Ever heard that "April showers bring May flowers?" We're prepping for May flowers during these April showers. Join us inside for a little while longer to enjoy some local snacks and global films to inspire and activate your year. Together we can change the world.

Audience: Adults

Program Type: Educational

More Details

Big Tiny Art Show

The Big Tiny Art Show provided community groups and members of all ages as well as staff to create small paintings of any type of art of their choice. A community art exhibit was held at the culmination of the program featuring over 700 works from community members, groups, and staff.

Audience: Everyone

Program Type: Display

More Details

DIY Rainbarrels

Maximize the potential of rain water! Harvesting rainwater helps conserve water and protect our waterways from polluted runoff! Learn how to make your own Rainbarrels for your library to harvest rain water to further use throughout your landscape.

Audience: Adults

Program Type: Educational

More Details

Now We're Walkin'! Staff Challenge

Longwood Public Library staff walking challenge to promote health and wellness amongst staff. Complete with 8 different walking activities for staff to engage in including incentives in the form of a raffle.

Audience: Adults

Program Type: Passive

More Details

Clothing Swap

At the Shelter Island Public Library a group of local women have decided to keep clothes out of the landfill by holding monthly clothing swaps under the Library tent. They bring the clothes and the Library provides tables, storage space when possible and access to a bathroom and water.

Audience: Everyone

Program Type: Passive

More Details

No Mow May

Promoting healthy environments for pollinators by allowing grass to grow long. By not mowing a small patch of our lawn for the month of May, the Library is taking a small step towards creating a more abundant and diverse habitat for our pollinators.

Audience: Everyone

Program Type: Passive

More Details

DIY Emergency Kit

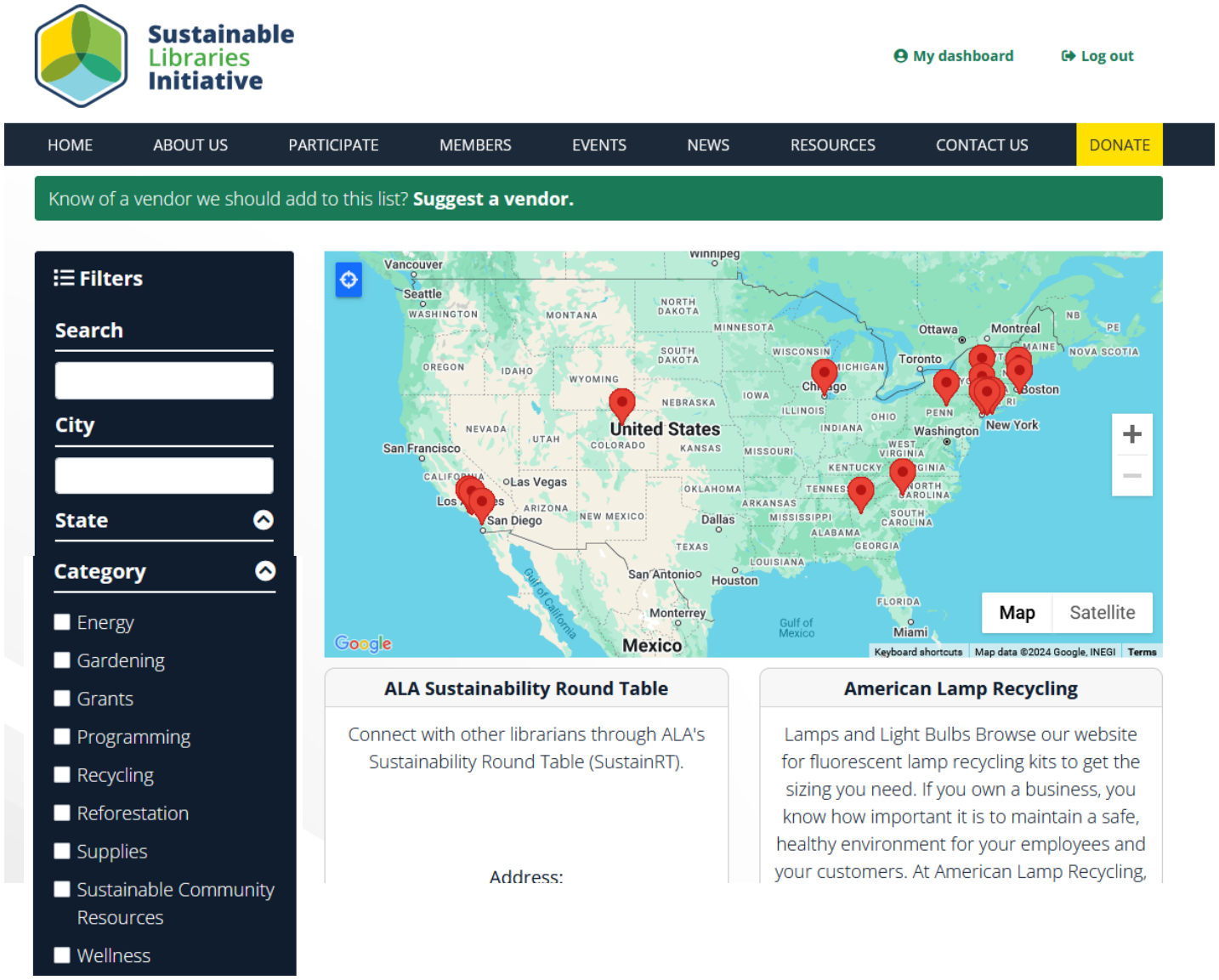
Wish you were confident in your ability to thrive in an emergency? Make sure you're not the person searching for that flashlight you were sure you thought you had.

Audience: Adults

Program Type: Educational

More Details

Vendor List


Sustainable Libraries Initiative
My dashboard
Log out
HOME
ABOUT US
PARTICIPATE
MEMBERS
EVENTS
NEWS
RESOURCES
CONTACT US
DONATE
Know of a vendor we should add to this list? Suggest a vendor.
Filters
Search
City
State
Category
Energy
Gardening
Grants
Programming
Recycling
Reforestation
Supplies
Sustainable Community Resources
Wellness
United States
Mexico
Map
Satellite
ALA Sustainability Round Table
Connect with other librarians through ALA's Sustainability Round Table (SustainRT).
Address:
American Lamp Recycling
Lamps and Light Bulbs Browse our website for fluorescent lamp recycling kits to get the sizing you need. If you own a business, you know how important it is to maintain a safe, healthy environment for your employees and your customers. At American Lamp Recycling,

SLI-ALA eCourse: 25 free seats

Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices

4-week asynchronous eCourse

- Gain a strong understanding of the **"triple bottom line" definition** of sustainability as adopted by the American Library Association as a Core Value of Librarianship.
- Have the ability to accurately describe **operational decisions, services, programs, and partnerships** their library is already undertaking that better position their institutions as sustainability leaders.
- Make operational decisions as well as **design new services, programs, and partnerships** to ensure their institutions are relevant and responsive in the face of the impacts of climate change using the **"sustainable thinking" model**.
- Understand the importance of **equity, diversity, and inclusion in the context of climate justice**.

ALA American Library Association

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Climate Action Plan Template

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Climate Action Plan Template

Think about your library and community and all you've learned about climate change through this series. Below, brainstorm ways your library can change or things that could be done that would have a positive impact on the local and global community.

Part 1: Climate Change Mitigation

A. Brainstorm ways your library can reduce its carbon footprint:
   a. Facility
      i. What would it take to make your facility net zero?
   b. Operations
   c. Transportation
   d. Materials Management

B. How can the library use its facility as a "living laboratory" to educate visitors about how the library works to reduce its carbon footprint?

C. What collections, programs, services, and partnerships can the library seek to help accelerate climate change mitigation in the community?

Part 2: Climate Change Adaptation

A. What are the climate hazards in your region?

B. What needs to be done to minimize service interruptions at your library?
   a. Staff Preparation & Education

Coming Soon!

Enhanced **Climate Action Lab** Resources

- Making the Case for Climate Action in Libraries
- Identify your region's climate hazards
- Step-by-Step Guidance to develop your library's Climate Action Plan

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

AWARD WINNER

Sustainable Library Certification Program

Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative

https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/

SCAN ME

20% OFF

Sustainable Library Certification Program

Public & Academic Libraries

- Organizational Commitment
- Energy, Land, and Water Use
- Waste, Recycling & Purchasing
- Partnerships
- Community Involvement
- Social Equity
- Community Resiliency
- Financial Sustainability
- Collections

SCAN ME

School Librarians

- Partnerships & Community Involvement
- Leading Beyond the Library
- Social Equity & Resiliency
- Standards & Curriculum
- Collections

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org

20% discount for VLA Members

Free

- Newsletter
- Mobile App
- Webinars
- Resources
- Facebook Page & Instagram

FREE FOR VLA MEMBERS

- Curated Resources
- Access to On Demand Training
- CO_2 Calculator
- Vendor and Program Ideas
- American Library Association - SLI eCourse

Sustainable Library Certification Program

- Online Dashboard to Track Action Items
- Example policies, program ideas, and more
- Assigned Mentor
- Meet Ups with Others in the Program

VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

VLA members new to the SLI receive one-free year of membership

To opt-in:

- Go to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative website: https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/SLI-Membership
- Choose the membership type and fill out the membership form
- When you get to "How did you hear about us?" - select "Other" and enter VLA Member in the Notes Field to waive the membership fee.

VLA members can also receive a 20% discount for the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program (SLCP).

- Email sliadmin@suffolknet.org for information and details.