



Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP)

Panelists:

Debbie Engelhardt, Library Director, Comsewogue Public Library
Hazel Onsrud, Adult Services Librarian, Curtis Memorial Library

Moderator:

Alex Blend, Sustainability Coordinator, Sustainable Libraries Initiative



1/30/25





**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

A new opportunity

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



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
The Voice of the Library Community



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**





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)



Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible





Sustainable Library Certification Program

20% Discount
for individual libraries

25% Discount
for cohorts from your state



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

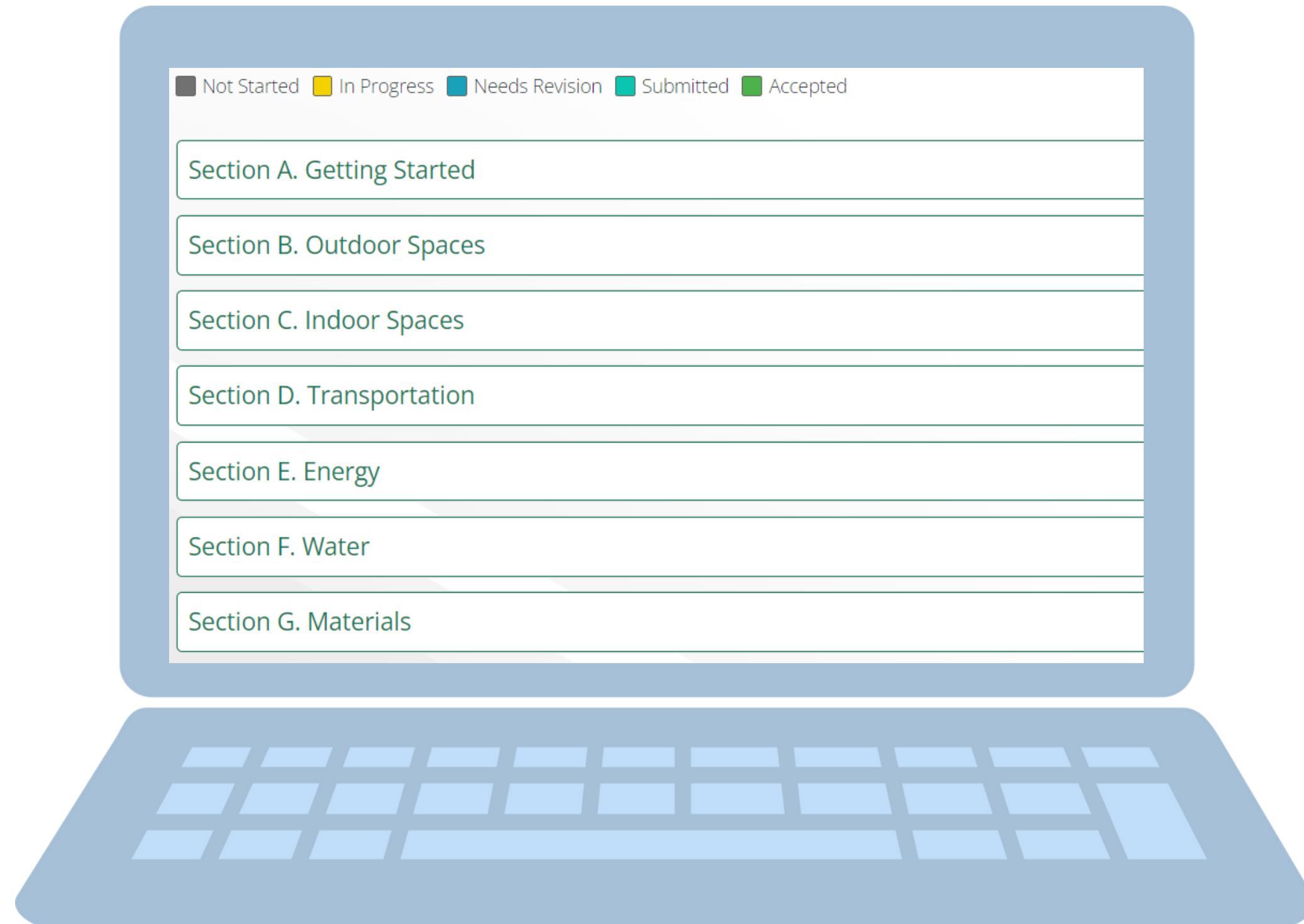
<https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

Sustainable Library Certification Program

- Step-by-Step Format
- Guidance from a Mentor
- Built-in Resources
- Community of Practice



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**



Sustainable Library Certification Program

Public & Academic Libraries and Library Systems

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

School Librarians

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

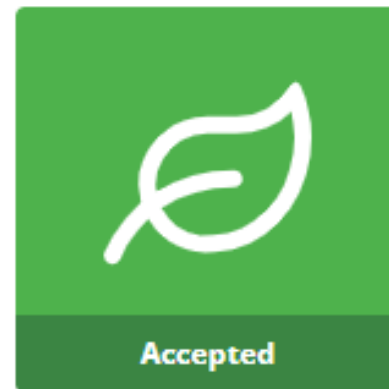


**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

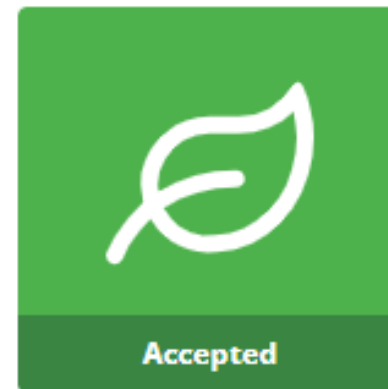
<https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

Action Items and Responses

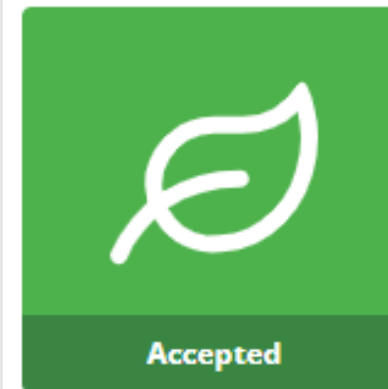
Required Actions



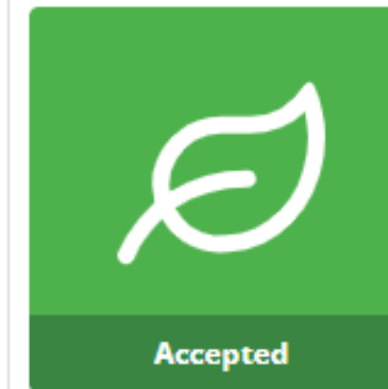
B.1: Site Management Plan (Library Systems)



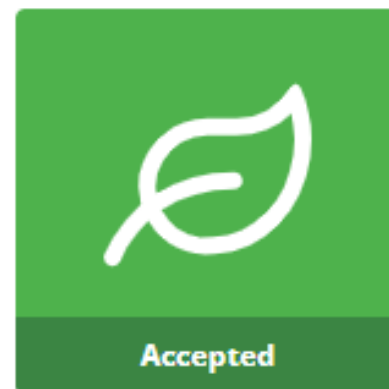
B.2: Assess for Light Pollution (Library Systems)



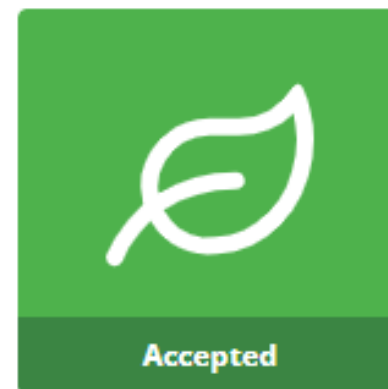
B.3: Litter Free Outdoor Spaces (Library Systems)



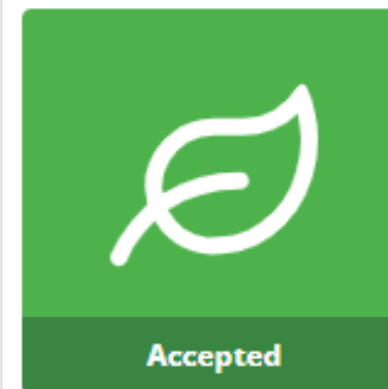
B.4: Invasive Plants (Library Systems)



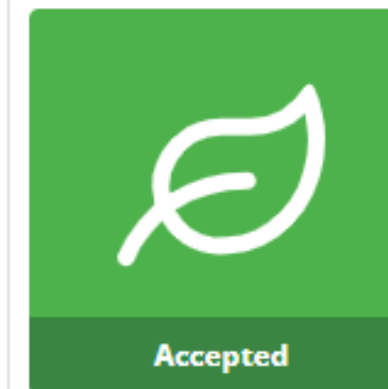
B.5: Native Plants (Library Systems)



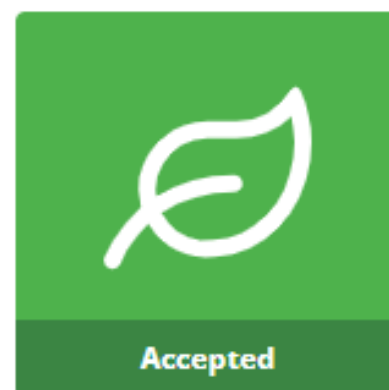
B.6: Planting Areas (Library Systems)



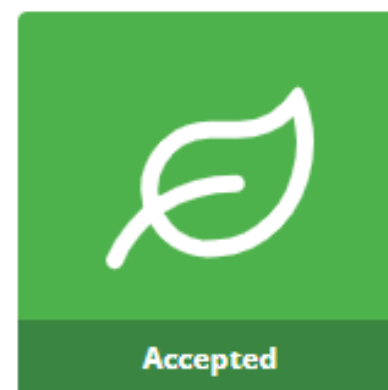
B.7: Chemical Pesticides (Library Systems)



B.8: Herbicides (Library Systems)



B.9: Storm Drains and Runoff Water (Library Systems)



B.10: Amend Facility Plan (Library Systems)



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Telling Your Library's Story



- Library web site, newsletter, social media, annual report
- Reflection Questions & Data Points
- Networking in Your Community
- Final Presentation
- SLI Ambassador to your Peers: Mentor & Presenter



Curtis Memorial Library Certification Presentation

This presentation show how the first 'outside of New York' Library to be certified have focused on sustainability in their programming and partnerships.

Presentation



Comsewogue Public Library Presentation

Comsewogue Public Library integrated the expansion of community partnerships into the long-range plan of service, hosted a repair café, and offered innovative programs to their community. View their SLCP Final Presentation to learn more.

Presentation

Your Mentor

- Led their own library through the SLCP
- Provides Advice & Support
- Helps you “Right-Size” Expectations
- Is your Cheerleader!

YOU
GOT
THIS!



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Connect with Others

- Monthly Meet-up
- Listservs by Library Type
- Facebook Group
- Live Quarterly Webinars
- Conference Hangouts



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Benefits of Certification

- A Path Forward
- Reflective Process
- Step-by-Step Transformation
- Community of Practice
- Professional Development and Engagement
- Partnerships for Collective Impact
- Raise the Profile of the Library as a Recognized Leader on the topic of Climate Action and Community Resilience





**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 sliaadmin@suffolknet.org for information and details.



Panelists

**Debbie Engelhardt,
Library Director,
Comsewogue Public Library
New York**



**Hazel Onsrud,
Adult Services Librarian,
Curtis Memorial Library
Maine**

