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**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

February 2025



**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

# SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from  
the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

## Issue Contents:

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# Congratulations!



## Norman Williams Public Library



Woodstock, Vermont

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

Norman Williams Public Library Press Release

Norman Williams Public Library Final Presentation

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Cal Poly Humboldt

**Location:** Arcata, California

**Membership:** SLCP Academic Library



With student-driven efforts to create a positive impact and their own sustainability librarian implementing sustainability into the curriculum, California State Polytechnic University Humboldt campus is a leader in sustainability.

The Sustainable Humboldt Innovative Futures Trust (SHIFT) committee, supported by faculty representative and sustainability librarian Morgan Barker, sets out to implement projects accelerating progress towards a greener, more equitable future on campus. With funding from student fees, some of the initiatives the SHIFT committee helped bring to campus include a small solar array, lighting upgrades, water bottle refill stations, and compost bins, among many others.

**“Centered in the campus Sustainability Office, this committee is a spot where the perspective of a Librarian is sincerely useful, as effective research models support active student learning, especially when it comes to the nuance of sustainability elements. Having a Librarian out there, with students, brings Library services into the campus community,”** says Morgan.



Recently, the committee worked with the OhSnap! Food Pantry on campus to purchase a sustainable vehicle after the pantry expressed a need to expand its services. The group engaged in an open dialogue with the grantee, sought out data from facilities on purchasing options, and carefully considered alignment with the fund's goals when coming to a decision. After weighing the options, a hybrid pick-up truck was chosen -- exemplifying the importance of hands-on student work in bridging the gap between climate literacy and climate action.

Mira Friedman, Lead for Health Education and Clinic Support Services, expressed gratitude for the purchase:

**“Dear SHIFT... Today we were able to help a student move from Motel 8 back to campus using our hybrid truck. We were able to use just the truck because my crew, the student and her friend all were able to all pile in and do just one trip. We were also able to load the back with food and other supplies she needed from some stores. We were able to get into RWC storage and load her up with recent supplies we picked up from the Samoa warehouse from move out donations. Lots of clothes, kitchen appliances, dishes, silverware, hangers, shelving unit, bathroom caddy, and so much more. If we didn't have the truck it would have taken additional cars to make this possible. Thank you for supporting our efforts! We appreciate you all! It was a good day.”**



[Cal Poly Humboldt Library Sustainability Page](#)

[Cal Poly Humboldt SHIFT](#)

[Form for Submissions](#)

# SLI UPDATES

## Register for Our eCourse with ALA!

### **Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices**

Climate change and environmental destruction are a code red for humanity and are this generation's grandest challenge. In 2019, ALA Council added "Sustainability" as a core value of the profession, adopting the triple bottom line definition of sustainability to ensure balanced decision-making that respects environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility. As community leaders and facilitators, libraries should be modeling sustainable practices among their staff and within their facilities.



In this special eCourse, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, President of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, will lead you through the principles and practices of sustainable librarianship along with a group of expert speakers, lecturers, and writers.

After participating in this course:

- Students will have a strong understanding of the "triple bottom line" definition of sustainability as adopted by the American Library Association as a Core Value of Librarianship.
- Students will be able to accurately describe operational decisions, services, programs, and partnerships their library is already undertaking that better position their institutions as sustainability leaders
- Using the "sustainable thinking" model, students will be able to 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.
- Students will understand the importance of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the context of climate justice.

This 4-week asynchronous eCourse will begin on Monday, March 10, 2025, and end on Sunday, April 6, 2025.

Price: \$188.10 (ALA Members), \$209.00 (non-ALA members)

[SLI x ALA eCourse Registration and Information](#)

## Upcoming Sustainability Webinars of Interest

### **Sustainable Library Programs for Every Kind of Library**

- Hosted by the Sustainable Libraries Initiative
- Tuesday, February 18 at 2:00 pm EST
- Zoom, link to register below

Hazel Onsrud, Adult Services Librarian at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, ME; Kate Moss, Senior Librarian, NYSDEC Research Library; and Margaret Woodruff, Director at the Charlotte Library in Charlotte, VT; bring their collective enthusiasm and know-how to this SLI webinar.

Learn how library programming can help raise sustainability awareness in your library and community. Whether your library is small or large, rural or urban, public or otherwise (such as Kate Moss's library at the New York Department of Environmental Conservation!), you'll find some inspiring ideas and good practice.

### **Disaster Preparedness Basics – People, Policies, Practices, and Procedures**

- For members of the Central NY Library Resources Council and the Empire State Library Network
- Wednesday, February 26 from 2:00-3:30 pm EST
- Zoom, link to register below (note: members only)

In July, 2024, Rome [NY] was hit by an EF2 tornado that went through the city's center coming within a block of the library. In this one hour program, learn what procedures, policies, and partnerships helped Jervis to respond quickly to the tornado warning and as an essential component of the community's response. In addition, you will be invited to consider other actions that can be part of response preparedness.

Sustainability Library Programs for Every Kind of Library

Disaster Preparedness Basics (registration restricted)



### **Funding Environmental Action at Your Local Library**

- Sponsored by the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center
- Thursday, February 27 at 2:00 pm EST
- Zoom, link to register below

First, librarians from Maine's Belfast Free Library won an IMLS grant to fund the All of Belfast: Climate Dialogues. The program engaged a broad range of Belfast residents in conversations about climate change and documented the communities' ideas and priorities for climate action. Next, Mt. Vernon, WA's former mayor will tell us about the Mt. Vernon Library Commons, a \$53 million project funded by several federal grants. The space includes a children's library, public kitchen, community center, and electric vehicle charging stations. The project has been lauded for its sustainability elements and for the amenities it brings to a disadvantaged community. This webinar will also highlight the EJ TCTAC program, through which municipalities, tribes and community-based organizations can access free technical assistance to win funding and make meaningful environmental progress locally.

### **Small Libraries, Big Economic, Environmental and Equity Impacts**

- Big Talk From Small Libraries 2025 Virtual Conference: free and open to everyone!
- Friday, February 28 from 10:00-10:50 am CST
- GoTo Webinar Online Meeting Service, registration below

Margaret Woodruff of the Charlotte Public Library (VT) and Melissa Olson of the Alice L. Pendleton Library in Islesboro (ME) will share how their libraries used the *Sustainable Libraries Certification Program (SLCP)* to build stronger connections with their communities, improve internal operations, and make environmentally conscious decisions. Discover how these small-town libraries have implemented sustainable practices that save time, money, and effort—while inspiring local residents to support, volunteer for, and advocate for their libraries.

Funding Environmental Action at Your Local Library

Big Talk From Small Libraries Virtual Conference Registration

### Green Jobs Webinar

- Hosted by the Sustainable Libraries Initiative
- Thursday, April 24 from 2:00-3:30 pm EST
- Zoom, link to register below

Join us for a free webinar exploring the exciting growth of green jobs! Learn about the latest trends and discover free online resources. We'll discuss strategies to help you build a successful library program. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and connect with fellow professionals in the field.

### Recent Features



In a [Library Futures](#) article, *Libraries in a Material World: The Role of Repair, Energy, and Education in Library Sustainability*, the SLI was highlighted for its certification program and the role the program plays in developing sustainable policy and helping libraries to tell their story.



San Diego State University listed sustainability in libraries as #2 in the *Top 10 Library Stories for 2024*, touching briefly upon their participation in the Sustainable Library Certification Program for academic libraries.

Check out the full articles with the links below!

[Green Jobs Webinar](#)

[Library Futures Article](#)

[San Diego State University: Top 10 Library Stories for 2024](#)

# 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:**



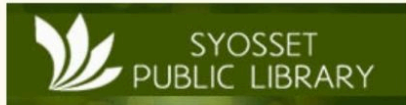
Clear Lake Public Library  
Clear Lake, Iowa



Cromwell Belden Public Library  
Cromwell, Connecticut



Sun Prairie Public Library  
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin



Syosset Public Library  
Syosset, New York

## **Attention School Librarians!**

**We are now opening registration for our Spring 2025  
Sustainable Library Certification Program cohort!**

**Click the link below to register!**

[School Librarian SLCP Registration](#)



## **Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:**

### **Public Libraries:**

- Bernards Township Library Basking Ridge, New Jersey
- Central Rappahannock Regional Library Stafford, Virginia
- Daniel Boone Regional Library Columbia, Missouri
- Haddonfield Public Library Haddonfield, New Jersey
- Holbrook Public Library Holbrook, Massachusetts
- Hurley Library Hurley, New York
- Sunnyvale Public Library Sunnyvale, California
- Teton County Library Jackson, Wyoming

### **Academic Libraries:**

- Copenhagen Business School Copenhagen, Denmark
- The Pennsylvania State University University Park, Pennsylvania
- University of British Columbia Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

### **Personal Members:**

- Bill Menker Centerville, Ohio
- Jessica Lewis Marshall Kingston, Jamaica
- Laura Davis Petersham, Massachusetts
- Mandi Goodsett Cleveland, Ohio
- Mark Fink Thornton, Colorado
- Nicole Hogan Bradley, Maine
- Noel Reich Ashland, Oregon
- Olivia Mules Albany, New York
- Tiffany Lynn Victor, Iowa

## 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](mailto:sliadmin@suffolknet.org) to make your suggestion.

[Program Idea Suggestion Form](#)

[Sustainable Vendor Suggestion Form](#)

[Grant Resource Suggestion Form](#)

# FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**February 6**

**SLCP Meetup: Financial Sustainability**

1:00 pm EST

Join SLI staff and guest speakers in a group discussion on financial sustainability: a crucial component of the triple bottom line. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



**February 18**

**Sustainable Library Programs for Every Kind of Library**

2:00 pm EST

Learn how library programming can help raise sustainability awareness in your library and community. Whether your library is small or large, rural or urban, public or otherwise, you'll find some inspiring ideas and good practice.

REGISTER NOW



**March 6**

**SLCP Meetup: Collections**

1:00 pm EST

Join SLI staff and guest speakers in a group discussion on the sustainability of your library collection and best management practices for long term success. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



**April 24**

**Green Jobs Webinar**

2:00 pm EST

Learn about the latest trends and discover free online resources. We'll discuss strategies to help you build a successful library program. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and connect with fellow professionals in the field.

REGISTER NOW





Sustainability Library Programs for Every Kind of Library

March SLCP Meetup: Collections

Green Jobs Webinar

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 21.77M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.61K trees! Keep up the good work!



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