Sustainable Libraries Initiative

March 2025

SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

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Now Enrolling School Librarians Nationwide!

The redesigned Sustainable Library Certification Program guides school librarians through 5 sections designed to help integrate sustainable practices into the library curriculum: socially, economically, and environmentally. Continue reading for more details.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: San Diego State University
Location: San Diego, California
Membership: SLCP Academic Library

San Diego State University is part of a consortium of public and academic libraries in San Diego County called *Circuit* that began to support interlibrary lending, and was developed to include community-wide programming. Some of the programming in the last year, supported by a collaborative *All of Us* Network of the National Library of Medicine (NNLM) grant, focused on sustainability, environmental resilience, and climate justice.

At SDSU, sustainability librarian and SLCP program lead Sarah Tribelhorn shares that the library collaborated with their campus student sustainability organization, *Associated Students Green Love*, during Mending Minds Week focusing on the connection between climate resilience and mental health. The students selected the author, Chris Turner, to discuss his book "How to be a Climate Optimist", offering a message of hope and resilience in the face of climate change.

Following the author talk, the library hosted book discussions with students, fostering meaningful conversations about climate change and its impact. Student feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with one participant sharing

"This helped me to be more optimistic about issues that our generation is facing regarding the climate, and I appreciate the library organizing the event."

To ensure broad accessibility, all events were advertised countywide in both English and Spanish and subsequently recorded and made publicly available.

San Diego State University Library Sustainability Page

Chris Turner Author Talk Recording

San Diego Circuit Consortium

SLI UPDATES

New School Librarian Certification Program Now Available Nationwide

The Sustainable Library Certification Program is now open to school librarians nationwide! Enrollment is currently open for the Spring 2025 Cohort and will continue until full.

The program's first cohort kicked off in December and includes a group of participants from the NYC Public School system, representing all five boroughs, as well as the first three school librarians from outside New York State:

Brooklyn
- Angela Hargrove
- Debbie Rothfeld
- Jennifer Cannell
- Mandy Feddern

Bronx
- Angelyn Gonzalez
- Carolina Crespo
- Joyce Scott
- Matthew Egan

Manhattan
- Cynthia Turnquest-Jones
- Joel Ochoa
- Kathleen Roberts
- Lauren Ginsberg DeVilbiss
- Ling Tang
- Mina Leazer
- Seth Pompi
- Thomas Knowlton

Queens
- Ariela Rothstein
- Holly Brown
- Loriana Donovan

Staten Island
- Mary Beth Quick
- Patricia Patrissy

New York State
- Amanda Ingalls (Hopewell Junction)
- Lindsay Valentine (Ossining)
- Tara Lallbachan (Bay Shore)
- Tracey Wong (White Plains)
- Westhampton Beach High School

Maryland
- Melissa King (Gaithersburg)

Texas
- Susan Cooper (Georgetown)

Wisconsin
- Jaqueline Liesch (Eau Claire)

The new program guides school librarians through 5 sections designed to help integrate sustainable practices related to the triple bottom line of sustainability into the library curriculum: environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility.

"Collaborating with librarians across state lines has been rewarding, we're not just sharing resources - we're cultivating sustainable practices that will enrich libraries and communities for generations to come. Together, we're writing a new chapter in library stewardship." says Ann-Marie Kalin, an SLCP certified school librarian and mentor to the first out-of-state participants.

Pictured (left): SLI Sustainability Coordinator Alex Blend with certified school librarian Kelsey LaPort; Pictured (right): Certified Syosset High School librarians Trish Sergi, Sarah Wasser, and Kristina Holzweiss,.

Currently, 52 school librarians are active participants of the Sustainable Library Certification Program with an additional 14 school librarians having already achieved certification status.

School librarians have 12-months to complete the requirements and are provided with the assistance of a mentor. Mentors serve as as a valuable resource throughout the process to help with pacing, review work, and provide advice where needed.

Click the links below to read the full press release and some stories from certified school librarians. With any questions about the program, please reach out to sliadmin@suffolknet.org.

School Librarian SLCP Registration

Read the Press Release!

Read our Certified Members' Stories Here!

Read the New Publication by SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Alongside Monika Antonelli, Minnesota State University; René Tanner, Rollins College; and Adrian K. Ho, University of Chicago; SLI President and Executive Director of the Mid-Hudson Library System Rebekkah Smith Aldrich published "The Storm is Here: Public Libraries' Role in Disaster Preparedness and Community Recovery" in the 51st issue of *Electronic Green Journal* this past month.

Building upon three years of research, the publication focuses on the role of public libraries in community support following weather disasters.

Read the abstract here and click the link below to read the whole article (open access):

"A national survey of public library directors and administrators was conducted in 2022 to assess the role of public libraries in community support following weather disasters. The results showed strong agreement (84%) among respondents that libraries have a critical service role in disaster response. Most respondents expressed concern about the impact of weather-related hazards on their communities. During and after disasters, libraries continued to offer regular services, with Wi-Fi access and computer stations being the most commonly provided. While the Stafford Act designates libraries as essential services and allows for relocation funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, only 36% of respondents were aware of this legislation. To fully leverage available support, libraries must enhance their preparedness prior to such events. Slightly over half of respondents (51%) indicated their libraries had an emergency preparedness plan. Among those with plans, most had a traditional emergency response plan (82%), while fewer had a continuity of operations plan (13%), and only one library had a community resilience plan. These findings highlight significant opportunities for increased preparation. Wider adoption of continuity of operations plans and greater visibility of these services would enhance libraries' effectiveness as community resources during weather disasters."

The Storm is Here: Public Libraries' Role in Disaster Preparedness

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

Advisory Board Member Nardia Cumberbatch Featured in a Library Journal Q&A

Nardia Cumberbatch, SLI advisory board member and tenured librarian at Valencia College in Central Florida, has been interviewed by Library Journal as a follow up to her designation as a 2024 Library Journal Mover and Shaker.

In the interview, Nardia discusses her process taking Valencia through the Sustainable Library Certification Program for academic libraries -- becoming the second academic library and first library in Florida across all program tracks to do so. Nardia also offers advice to fellow institutions and guides readers through her future sustainability plans.

Read Nardia's interview with the link provided at the bottom of this page!

The SLI Renews MOU Partnership with NJLA for a Third Year

The SLI is proud to announce the continuation of our partnership with the New Jersey Library Association (NJLA) for a third year!

Members of the New Jersey Library Association new to the SLI who opt in via the SLI website will receive one free year of annual membership to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and a 20% discount on the Sustainable Library Certification Program. Cohorts of five or more libraries will receive a 25% discount on certification, supporting the principle that there is power in collective action.

For more information, please click the links below or contact sliadmin@suffolknet.org.

Library Journal Interview with Nardia Cumberbatch

Press Release: The SLI Renews NJLA Partnership for a Third Year

SLI's Upcoming Presentations

To better serve you, we've curated a series of valuable upcoming sessions. Participants in the certification program may attend some of these sessions to fulfill certain action items.

2024 Annual Report Presentation: Sustainable Libraries Initiative
- Friday, April 4th at 1:00 pm EST
- Zoom link to register below

Leaders of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative will be presenting the Sustainable Libraries Initiative's 2024 Annual Report! All are welcome to join us in sharing highlights, statistics, testimonials, and words of wisdom from the past year as an organization.

SAVE THE DATE!

SLI 2024 Annual Report
Friday, April 4, 2025
1:00 PM EST

Green Jobs Webinar
- Thursday, April 24 at 2:00 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.

March 15th is Digital Cleanup Day

Reduce your carbon footprint by participating in Digital Cleanup Day on March 15th! **Let's Do it World**, a global organization that works to arrange clean-up events worldwide, is encouraging "individuals and companies to declutter and restructure their online presence."

DIGITAL CLEANUP DAY 2025 15 MAR

Decluttering your digital devices brings a slew of benefits such as reducing CO_2 emissions, prolonging device lifespans, reducing data storage security risk, increasing efficiency, and more. Click the links below to find easy decluttering guides and learn how you can get involved on Digital Cleanup Day.

2024 Annual Report Presentation

Green Jobs Webinar

Digital Cleanup Day

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:

East Lansing Public Library
East Lansing, Michigan

Kennebunk Free Library
Kennebunk, Maine

Vernon Area Public Library
Lincolnshire, Illinois

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

Public Libraries:
- Linden Public Library — Linden, New Jersey
- Mendon Public Library — Honeoye Falls, New York

Academic Libraries:
- University of Virginia Library — Charlottesville, Virginia

Personal Members:
- Maggie Bausch — Middletown, Virginia
- Maria Mayo-Peaseley — Thornton, Colorado

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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 3

SLCP Meetup: Final Presentation

1:00 pm EST

Learn helpful tips from fellow SLCP members, join in on a discussion about sustainability, and ask general or topic-specific questions. We hope to see you there! All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW ↘

April 4

2024 Annual Report

1:00 pm EST

Leaders of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative will be presenting the Sustainable Libraries Initiative's 2024 Annual Report! All are welcome to join us in sharing highlights, statistics, testimonials, and words of wisdom from the past year as an organization.

REGISTER NOW ↘

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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 ↘

March SLCP Meetup: Collections

April SLCP Meetup: Final Presentation

2024 Annual Report Presentation

Help Us Build Our Community!

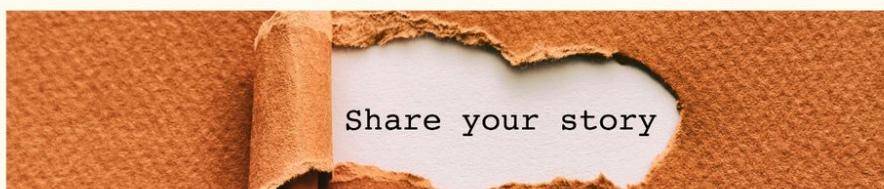The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is putting out a call for idea sharing from our members!

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!

Share your story

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 sliadmin@suffolknet.org

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.

OFFICE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Thanks to the SLI's partnership with CCP Solutions, Sustainable Library Certification Program members have collectively offset the equivalent of 22.46M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.70K trees!
Keep up the good work!

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