

## **North Babylon Public Library Certified Sustainable**

*The Sustainable Libraries Initiative and New York Library Association has recognized North Babylon Public Library as a sustainability leader.*

**New York State— October 21, 2020—** North Babylon Public Library, in North Babylon, NY, has been certified as a “Sustainable Library” through the award-winning Sustainable Library Certification Program, the first of its kind in the world, through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and New York Library Association. North Babylon Public Library will be recognized at the 2020 Annual Conference of the New York Library Association held virtually November 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.



*Front entrance of North Babylon Public Library, North Babylon, NY. North Babylon Public Library has been certified a sustainable library by the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and the New York Library Association.*

“Libraries completing certification have demonstrated leadership in conducting the operations of their organizations, as well as program and service design, with a critical eye towards environmental stewardship, economic feasibility and social equity”, said Jeremy Johannesen, Executive Director of the New York Library Association, “Their efforts serve as a model for the 16,500 public libraries in the United States.

### **International Impact**

North Babylon Public Library participated in the Sustainable Library Certification Program, the first program of its kind in the world to assist libraries of all types – public, academic, and school – to assess their opportunities to make better choices on behalf of the local and global community.

The program was recently recognized by the International Federation of Library Associations at their 2019 World Congress in Athens, Greece, becoming the first program in the United States to be recognized through their “Green Libraries” Award.

### **Comprehensive Approach**

North Babylon Public Library completed action items in twelve categories such as organizational commitment, waste management, energy consumption, land use, partnerships and social equity and resilience. Director Marc Horowitz said the following about the process:

“Sustainability is simply the right thing to do. The various activities that the North Babylon Public Library embarked upon were not difficult. Most were inexpensive – recycling, reimagining and reviewing. Upgrading the HVAC, boilers, lighting, roofing, 20kw solar panels, windows and doors, while expensive, significantly reduced our utilities and carbon footprint. We sincerely hope that the community recognizes our achievements and incorporates similar activities at home.”

Forty public libraries statewide are currently working on their certification. The first cohort of school librarians began in January 2020. The academic program went live April 2020, and the public library program will launch nationwide in early 2021.

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The New York Library Association leads, educates, and advocates for the advancement of the New York library community.

### **For more information, press only:**

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