

Patchogue-Medford Library Certified Sustainable

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative and New York Library Association has recognized Patchogue-Medford Public Library as a sustainability leader.

New York State— March 22, 2021—Patchogue-Medford Public Library in Patchogue, 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. Patchogue-Medford Public Library will be recognized at the 2021 Annual Conference of the New York Library Association held in Syracuse, NY November 3rd- 6th 2021.



Patchogue-Medford Public Library’s sustainability team. Patchogue-Medford 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

Patchogue-Medford 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

Patchogue-Medford Public Library completed action items in twelve categories such as organizational commitment, waste management, energy consumption, land use, partnerships and social equity and resilience. Library Director Danielle Paisley said the following about the process:

“Our Library staff really embraced the process of learning through sustainability. When we realized that making small changes could make such a big difference, the staff were all-in. We appreciated the step-by-step approach of the certification plan. Every month, we worked through a different issue, and with a little extra effort and thought, we were able to start several recycling initiatives. Having Jeri Cohen and the Green Team monitor the wins really served to keep the momentum moving forward. The conversations we had with our Board and our community solidified that we made the right decision to embark on this process. We had support from the PEP (Protecting the Environment in Patchogue) Committee, an organization working towards sustainable initiatives in our Village, too. Upgrading to LED lighting was a heavier lift but has resulted in energy and cost savings. Our latest initiative, replacing the roof, has prepped us for moving forward with a solar project in the future, where we will continue to reduce our carbon footprint. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with NYLA and look forward to a more sustainable future.”

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 spring 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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