



Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative

September 2025



Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative

# SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from  
the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

## Issue Contents:

- Congratulations!
- Member Spotlight
- SLI Updates
- Member News
- For Your Calendar

## Congratulations!



courtesy of Cal Poly Humboldt

Cal Poly Humboldt  
Arcata, California



HARRISON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Harrison Public Library  
Harrison, New York

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

Cal Poly Humboldt Press Release

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Longwood Public Library



**Location:** Middle Island, New York

**Membership:** Certified Sustainable Public Library

In order to spread community awareness of its native pollinator garden, Longwood Public Library created a native plants poster exhibit. 10 panels were printed and displayed throughout May and June, educating patrons on the importance of native plants in the landscape. The library intends to use the posters year-after-year to build a connection to their seed library and inspire their community to take action.



**"Our native garden exhibit highlights the beauty and importance of sustainable gardening practices by showing patrons the native plants that thrive right here on our library property. It's a living, visual guide to inspire our community to plant with purpose—supporting local ecosystems, conserving resources, and creating resilient landscapes in their own backyards."** Assistant Director Ann Hofbauer

Longwood Public Library Sustainability Website

Want to be featured?: form for submissions

# SLI UPDATES

## New National Partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries



The SLI is proud to announce a national partnership with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL)!

"Rural and small libraries are mighty," said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Co-Founder and Board President of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, "We are so proud to partner with the Association of Rural and Small Libraries to connect with more of their members across the country and work hand-in-hand to accelerate the work that needs to get done to meet the needs of our communities and help our libraries thrive."

"The Association for Rural & Small Libraries is proud to partner with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative to further our mutual goals of strengthening libraries and the communities they serve. For more than 40 years, ARSL has represented library professionals serving small and rural communities across North America, providing targeted advocacy, networking, and professional development tailored to their unique needs," said ARSL Executive Director Kate Laughlin.

Members of the Association for Rural and Small Libraries 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 award-winning 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, email [sliadmin@suffolknet.org](mailto:sliadmin@suffolknet.org) or click the links below.

[Read the Press Release!](#)

[ARSL Partnership Page](#)

## Recent Features

### Advisory Board Member Sarah Tribelhorn Featured on ARL Views



San Diego State University Sustainability Librarian and SLI Advisory Board Member Sarah Tribelhorn recently wrote an article for *ARL Views* – the official blog for the Association of Research Libraries – on the role of sustainability in academic libraries. Read more by clicking the link below.



### SLI Advisory Board Member Hazel Onsrud Highlighted in the *New York Times* for the Library of Things at Curtis Memorial Library



SLI Advisory Board member Hazel Onsrud was recently interviewed by the *New York Times* for their 50 States, 50 Fixes series. Read the full article below to learn more about Hazel's work on the Library of Things at the SLI Certified Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, Maine.

### Certified Member Concord Public Library Selected as a Case Study on Sustainability by GreenerU

SLI certified Concord Public Library in Concord, Massachusetts was analyzed by GreenerU, an organization with a mission to help educational and community institutions in Massachusetts reach decarbonization goals, for their active sustainability work and goal to reach carbon neutrality by 2030.

Read through the case study with the links below!



ARL Views: Sarah Tribelhorn

New York Times: Curtis Memorial Library

GreenerU: Concord Public Library

## Upcoming Webinars

### **Introduction to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative**

- Monday, September 8 @ 2:00 pm EDT

Learn about the exclusive tools, resources and methodologies that help library leaders be more authentic and focused in their decision making; resource use; service and program design; and partnerships to align with the triple bottom line of sustainability: environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility.

This webinar is designed for members of our new association partnerships, namely, the Maryland Library Association, the Vermont Library Association, and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries.

### **Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program**

- Wednesday, September 10 @ 10:00 am EDT

During this webinar, you will learn about the Sustainable Library Certification Program. A panel of speakers whose libraries completed the SLCP will describe their journey and share their library's experiences.

This webinar is designed for members of our new association partnerships, namely, the Maryland Library Association, the Vermont Library Association, and the Association for Rural and Small Libraries.

### **Libraries as Cooling Centers**

- Thursday, September 25 @ 2:00 pm EDT

As extreme heat events become more frequent, libraries are exploring their role in supporting community members seeking relief. This session will begin with a brief overview of what it means to serve as a "cooling center." Jared Ulmer, Climate & Health Program Manager at the Vermont Department of Health, will share insights on the changing risks of extreme heat, who is most vulnerable, and common challenges libraries may face when engaging in this work. Laura Smith, Collection Development Librarian at Harris County Public Library in Houston, Texas, will offer a library perspective, highlighting practical ways libraries can respond to their community's needs during heat events.

Introduction to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program

Webinar: Libraries as Cooling Centers

## Upcoming Conferences

### Association for Rural and Small Libraries Annual Conference

- September 17-20, 2025
- Albuquerque, New Mexico

Join us for our Saturday morning program session on the 20<sup>th</sup> from 10-11 am – *From Anxiety to Action: How the Sustainable Library Certification Program Builds Stronger Communities* – presented by SLI co-founders Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Matthew Bollerman.



### Iowa Library Association Annual Conference

- October 1-3, 2025
- Sioux City, Iowa

Come find our booth on the exhibit floor!



### Virginia Library Association Annual Conference

- October 1-3, 2025
- Richmond, Virginia

Visit our booth in the exhibit hall, come see us at the poster session, or attend our program, *From Anxiety to Action: How the Sustainable Library Certification Program Builds Stronger Communities*, presented by SLI advisory board members Lisa Kropp and Jennifer Ferriss.



# 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:**



Cindy Woodruff, School Librarian  
Manchester Center, Vermont



Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
Surrey, British Columbia, Canada



Libby Memorial Library  
Old Orchard Beach, Maine



Lydia Moss, School Librarian  
Bay Shore, New York



## **Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:**

### **Library Systems:**

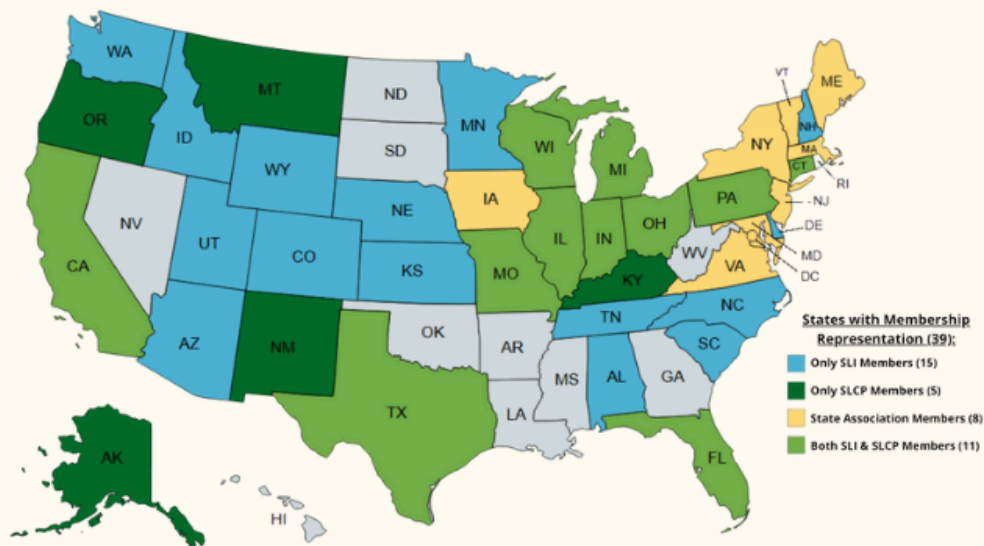
- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Maryland State Library Agency     | Baltimore, Maryland    |
| • New Hampshire State Library       | Concord, New Hampshire |
| • Traverse des Sioux Library System | Mankato, Minnesota     |

### **Public:**

- |                                      |                          |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Allegany County Library System     | LaVale, Maryland         |
| • Barrett Memorial Library           | Williams Bay, Wisconsin  |
| • Bee Cave Public Library            | Bee Cave, Texas          |
| • Freeport Community Library         | Freeport, Maine          |
| • George F. Johnson Memorial Library | Endicott, New York       |
| • Hartland Public Library            | Hartland, Maine          |
| • Jackson Public Library             | Jackson, New Hampshire   |
| • North Hero Public Library          | North Hero, Vermont      |
| • Peotone Public Library District    | Peotone, Illinois        |
| • Queen Anne's County Library        | Centreville, Maryland    |
| • Salem City Library                 | Salem, Utah              |
| • Salisbury Free Public Library      | Salisbury, Vermont       |
| • South Carolina State Library       | Columbia, South Carolina |
| • St. Mary's County Library          | Lexington Park, Maryland |
| • Upper San Juan Library District    | Pagosa Springs, Colorado |
| • Van Meter Public Library           | Van Meter, Iowa          |
| • Wells Branch Community Library     | Austin, Texas            |
| • Wilmot Public Library              | Wilmot, New Hampshire    |

### Personal:

- |                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Ann McIntyre     | Beltsville, Maryland                 |
| • Breanna Little   | Towson, Maryland                     |
| • Claudia Parra    | Beltsville, Maryland                 |
| • Elisa Coghlan    | Milwaukee, Wisconsin                 |
| • Emily Gorman     | Baltimore, Maryland                  |
| • Jack Colwell     | Cramlington, England, United Kingdom |
| • Joey Schenning   | Towson, Maryland                     |
| • Priscilla Garvin | North East, Maryland                 |
| • Susan Boyle      | Wesley Chapel, Florida               |
| • Teneille Naraine | Beltsville, Maryland                 |
| • Thibault Raoult  | Beltsville, Maryland                 |



# FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**September 4**

**SLCP Meetup: Energy**  
1:00 pm EDT

In this month's meetup, come learn how libraries are finding ways to reduce electricity expenditure, make heating and cooling systems more efficient, or make the swap to renewable energy solutions!

REGISTER NOW



**October 9**

**SLCP Meetup: Water**  
1:00 pm EDT

This month's meetup topic discusses the use of water in the library space! Whether it's finding ways to reduce your water use, make the swap to more efficient fixtures, or investigate alternatives to irrigation - using water more sustainably can be a challenge.

REGISTER NOW



**November 13**

**SLCP Meetup: Materials and Waste**  
1:00 pm EDT

Come join in on our monthly casual community discussion, this time on how libraries are properly managing waste and materials in the library space!

REGISTER NOW

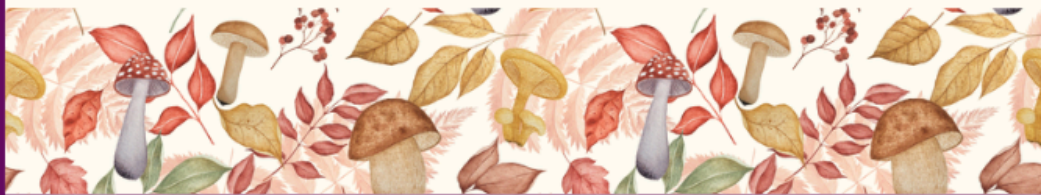


**December 4**

**SLCP Meetup: Collective Impact**  
1:00 pm EDT

This month's meetup topic discusses how to incorporate the principles of social equity and find solutions to complex social issues within your library! Come listen to your peers, ask questions, and learn more!

REGISTER NOW



September SLCP Meetup: Energy

October SLCP Meetup: Water

November SLCP Meetup: Materials and Waste

December SLCP Meetup: Collective Impact

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 26.25M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 3.15K trees!](#)  
Keep up the good work!



*Copyright © 2025 Suffolk Cooperative Library System, All rights reserved.*

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