



Introduction to the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP)

Panelists:

Jennifer Ferriss, Assistant Director, Saratoga Springs Public Library

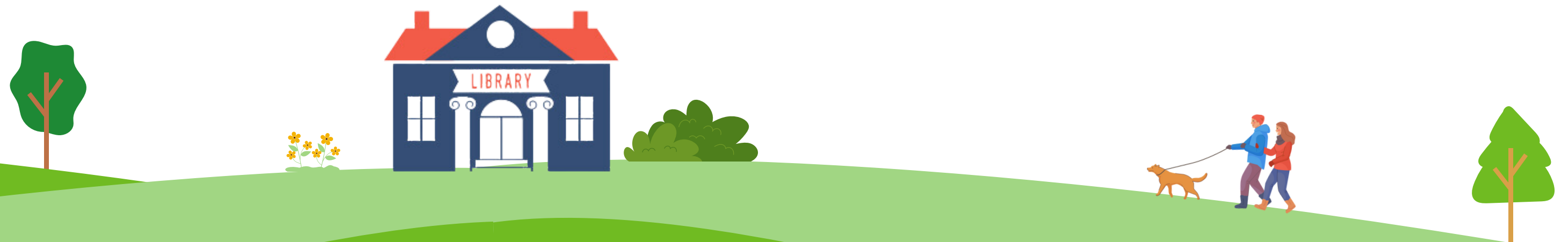
Margaret Woodruff, Director, Charlotte Library

Moderator:

Alex Blend, Sustainability Coordinator, Sustainable Libraries Initiative



9/10/25



Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Launched in 2015 as a community of practice for library leaders interested in addressing issues related to **climate change, community resilience and securing a vital, vibrant, and visible place** in the community/on campuses/in schools for libraries.



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**



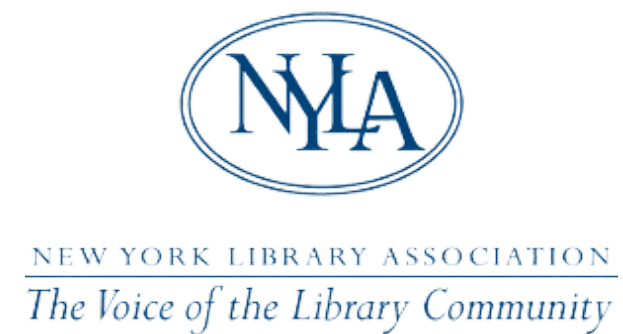


**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

A new opportunity

- Free Sustainable Libraries Initiative Membership for all Members
- Discount on the Sustainable Library Certification Program

ASSOCIATION
OF RESEARCH
LIBRARIES





Sustainable Libraries

✓	Strong & Authentic Institutions that live their values out loud
✓	Catalyst for Social Cohesion & Civic Participation in Communities
✓	Working on Climate Mitigation (reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GhG))
✓	Active Participants in Climate Adaptation (strengthening community resilience)



Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible





Sustainable Library Certification Program

20% Discount
for individual libraries

25% Discount
for cohorts from your state

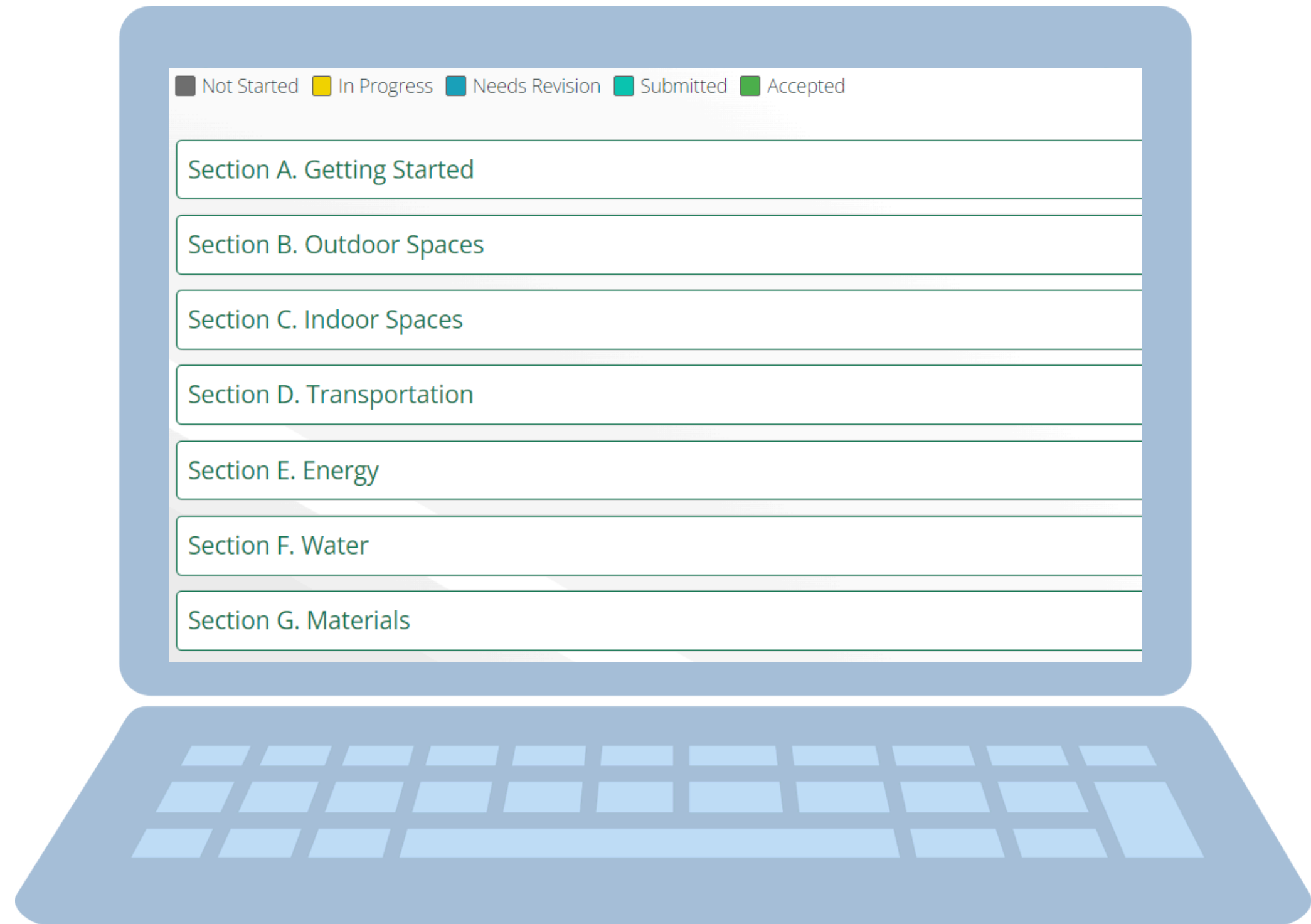


**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

<https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

Sustainable Library Certification Program

- Step-by-Step Format
- Guidance from a Mentor
- Built-in Resources
- Community of Practice



Sustainable Library Certification Program

Public & Academic Libraries and Library Systems

- Organizational Commitment
- Energy, Land, & Water Use
- Waste, Recycling, & Purchasing
- Partnerships
- Community Involvement
- Social Equity
- Community Resiliency
- Financial Sustainability
- Collections

School Librarians









- Partnerships & Community Involvement
- Leading Beyond the Library
- Social Equity & Resiliency
- Standards & Curriculum
- Collections



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Action Items and Responses

 Not Started A.1. First-generation Sustainability Team	 Not Started A.2: Presentation to Library Administration	 Not Started A.3: Presentation to Library Board	 Not Started A.4: Presentation to Library Staff
 Not Started A.5: Sustainability Policy	 Not Started A.6: Purchasing Policy	 Not Started A.7: Staff Survey	 Not Started A.8: Second-generation Sustainability Team





Resources to help along the way

For Everyone

 Annual Report


 Certification Presentations


 Introductory Webinars


 Map of U.N. SDGs to SLCP Action Items

 National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries

 Newsletter


 Recommended Reading

 Road Map


 Webjunction + SLI Webinars & Resources for Climate Action


For Members

 Climate Action Lab


 CO2 Emissions Calculator and Emissions Equivalents


 On Demand Webinars


 Policy Resources

 Program Idea Bank

 Resources for Academic Libraries

 Resources for School Librarians

 Support

 Vendor List

Telling Your Library's Story



- Library web site, newsletter, social media, annual report
- Reflection Questions & Data Points
- Networking in Your Community
- Final Presentation
- SLI Ambassador to your Peers: Mentor & Presenter

Certified Sustainable Public Libraries

Explore how public libraries across the country have transformed their services, facilities, and operations to lead in sustainability.



Charlotte Library



Saratoga Springs Public Library

Your Mentor

- Led their own library through the SLCP
- Provides Advice & Support
- Helps you “Right-Size” Expectations
- Is your Cheerleader!

YOU
GOT
THIS!



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Connect with Others

- Monthly Meet-up
- Listservs by Library Type
- Facebook Group
- Live Webinars Quarterly
- Conference Hangouts



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Benefits of Certification

- A Path Forward
- Reflective Process
- Step-by-Step Transformation
- Community of Practice
- Professional Development and Engagement
- Partnerships for Collective Impact
- Raise the Profile of the Library as a Recognized Leader on the topic of Climate Action and Community Resilience





**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Partner library association members new to the SLI receive one-free year of membership

To opt-in:

- Go to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative website:
<https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/SLI-Membership>
- Choose the membership type and fill out the membership form
- When you get to “How did you hear about us?” - select “Other” and enter your library association in the Notes Field to waive the membership fee.



Scan here
to join!

Partner Library Association members can also receive a 20% discount for the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program (SLCP).

- Email sliaadmin@suffolknet.org for information and details.



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