



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

November 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!



Charlotte Library

Charlotte, Vermont

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

Charlotte Library Press Release

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Curtis Memorial Library

Location: Brunswick, Maine

Membership: SLCP Certified Public Library



Curtis Memorial Library's Library of Things is an impressive collection of over 1500 unique items that can be checked out for use by their patrons.

The Library of Things (LOT) was created to support the local needs, missing literacies, and community programming of Curtis Memorial Library in addition to the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The library has been featured in news outlets on several occasions for its LOT in the last few months including NBC News, The Today Show, and the New York Times.

"We've seen strangers bond over similarities of cooking special occasion meals at checkout, hosted a room full of patrons learning to process acorns for 'cheez' and muffins, and overheard detailed recipe exchanges of seaweed tortillas and elderberry popsicles. You never know what type of interactions a food literacy collection will inspire," said Hazel Onsrud, Adult Services Librarian and coordinator of the project.

Learn how to start your own Library of Things by checking out the tutorials at the bottom of the page or by joining the LOT Mutual Aid google group.

[Curtis Memorial Library: LOT Website](#)

[LOT Mutual Aid Google Group](#)

[New York Times Feature](#)

[Want to be featured? Complete the submissions form!](#)

SLI UPDATES

Resilient Communities: Advancing Sustainability in and through Libraries



The Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) is partnering with the American Library Association (ALA) to offer a learning opportunity supporting sustainability as a core value of librarianship.

One-hundred public library workers will be selected to complete *"Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices,"* a four-part asynchronous e-course. In addition to **free tuition** for the course, participants will engage in a community of practice with advisors and peers over the course of six months.

Public library workers who would like to be considered for one of the 100 available spots should explore the opportunity and apply online with the link below by **November 14**.

- **Application deadline:** November 14, 2025, by 11:59 pm (CT)
- **Award notification:** December 5, 2025
- **Project kick off call:** January 15, 2026, 1:00 pm CST/2:00 pm EST
- **"Sustainable Librarianship: Core Competencies and Practices," four-part asynchronous e-course:** January 26 - February 20, 2026
- **Office hours:** Monthly, February-June 2025; second Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm CST/2:00 pm EST
- **Progress report due:** June 17, 2026

Resilient Communities: Advancing Sustainability in and through Libraries

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative Partners with the Michigan Library Association



A new partnership between the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) and the Michigan Library Association (MLA) aims to equip MLA members with tools and resources to address the challenges and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Through this partnership, MLA joins 8 other states including Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Virginia in committing to sustainability by ensuring access to sustainability tools, webinars, vendors, program ideas, and educational materials.

"Our partnership with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) is ensuring Michigan libraries have access to valuable sustainability resources and coursework, which aim to help libraries become more environmentally sound," said Dillon Geshel, Interim Executive Director of the Michigan Library Association. "We're thrilled help empower libraries to make intentional choices that limit their environmental impact, and the SLI resources do just that."

A number of Michiganders have already joined the SLI community of practice, including the East Lansing Public Library, which is blazing a trail in the state as an early adopter of the Sustainable Library Certification Program.

Members of the Michigan Library Association 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.

[Read the Press Release](#)

NYLA Conference

New York Library Association Annual Conference

- November 5-8, 2025
- Saratoga Springs, New York



Come find our booth on the exhibit floor and attend our preconference *From Anxiety to Action: How the Sustainable Library Certification Program Builds Stronger Communities*, presented by SLI advisory board members Lisa Kropp and Jennifer Ferriss on Wednesday, November 5th at 9:30 am.

In addition, we're excited to announce a **special giveaway** for SLCP member libraries! One lucky library will receive a Balloon Bin, generously donated by Balloon Mission, a grassroots nonprofit working to end balloon litter and promote responsible celebration practices.

Balloon Bins accept deflated latex, foil, and mylar balloons—as well as ribbons, confetti, and accessories—helping communities keep balloon waste out of the environment and away from wildlife. Libraries make ideal partners in this effort, offering a visible and trusted place for sustainable disposal after celebrations.

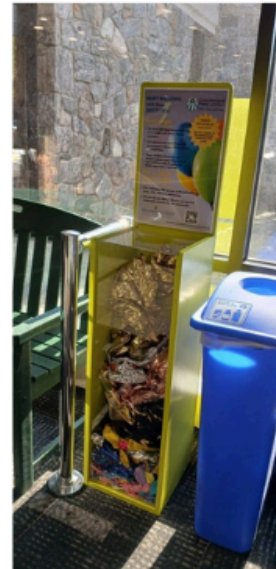
How to Enter:

To be eligible for the Balloon Bin giveaway, libraries must:

- Visit the Sustainable Libraries Initiative booth at the NYLA Annual Conference, November 5–8, and
- Be enrolled in the Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP) — or enroll by December 1, 2025.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with SLI, learn more about sustainability in libraries, and take part in a fun, meaningful giveaway that supports your community and the planet.

We look forward to seeing you in Saratoga Springs!



President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich Featured on GovLove Podcast

SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich joined the GovLove podcast to discuss the Sustainable Libraries Initiative with host Lauren Palmer. Take a listen with the link below or search on Spotify or Apple Podcasts.



Upcoming Webinar

Naturalist-in-Residence

- Thursday, December 18 @ 2:00 pm EST

Join Red Hook Public Library's Director, Alex Geller, for an engaging presentation on how to develop a Naturalist-in-Residence program for your library. Inspired by artist- and writer-in-residence models, Red Hook's Naturalist-in-Residence brings a local ecologist into the library and around the community to lead hands-on workshops and presentations to connect your community with its natural surroundings.

In this session, Alex will walk participants through the development and evolution of Red Hook's Naturalist-in-Residence program, from initial concept to successful implementation. You'll gain practical insight into program structure, budgeting, community partnerships, and how to identify and work with naturalists in your area. Learn how to adapt the model to your community's landscape, whether you're in a small town, suburban neighborhood, or urban environment.



GovLove Podcast : Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Naturalist-in-Residence

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:



MORETON BAY REGION
Libraries

Moreton Bay Libraries
Queensland, Australia



South Central Regional
Library Council
Make Smart Connections.

South Central Regional Library Council
Ithaca, New York

New Cohort of NY School Librarians

- Ann Kelly
- Elizabeth Healy
- Justin Mulvey
- Kelly Mattarelano
- Laura Penn
- Melissa Mazdra
- Stephany Weaver
- Taylor Coonelly
- Terri Rosen
- PS 1 School of Leadership and Creativity
- Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts
- The Boerum Hill School for International Studies
- I.S. 234 W.A. Cunningham
- Akron CSD
- P.S. 45Q The Clarence E. Witherspoon School
- Clara Barton High School
- Dodge Elementary
- PS 54: The Detective Rafael Ramos School

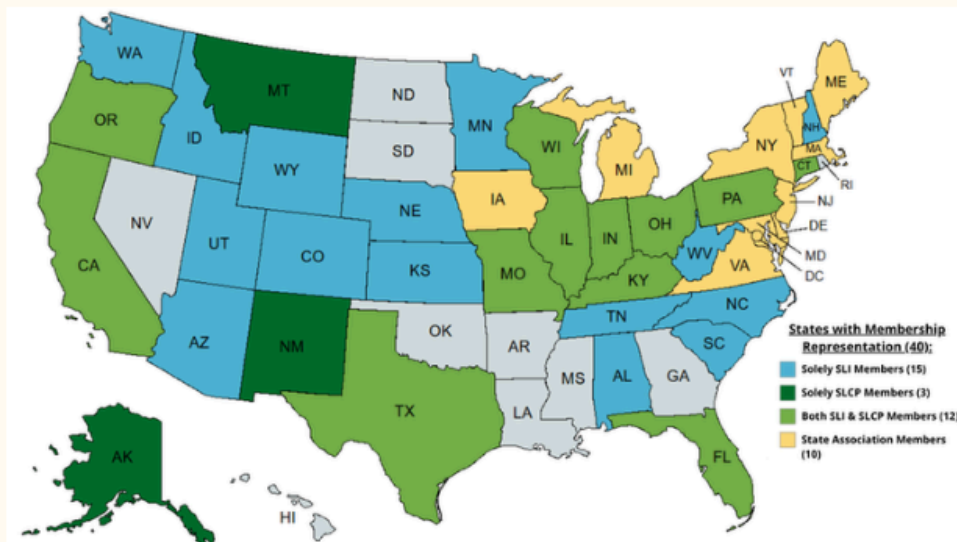
Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

Public:

- Galesburg Charleston Memorial District Library Galesburg, Michigan
- Gladwin County District Library Gladwin, Michigan
- Hart Area Public Library Hart, Michigan
- Orion Township Public Library Lake Orion, Michigan
- Romeo District Library Washington, Michigan
- Scottdale Public Library Scottdale, Pennsylvania
- Southern Area Library Lost Creek, West Virginia
- Sweet Home Public Library Sweet Home, Oregon

Personal:

- Jennifer Beach Covington, Kentucky
- Nancy Ives Salem, Virginia



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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



January 8

**SLCP Meetup: Social
Cohesion**

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! Join SLI staff and guest speakers in a group discussion. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



February 5

**SLCP Meetup: Resilience
Planning**

1:00 pm EDT

Join SLI staff and guest speakers in a group discussion on resilience planning: knowing how to best serve your community in an emergency and where to begin on the path to recovery. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



November SLCP Meetup: Materials and Waste

December SLCP Meetup: Collective Impact

January SLCP Meetup: Social Cohesion

February SLCP Meetup: Resilience Planning

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 27.08M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 3.25K 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](#).