



**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

December 2025



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Libraries  
Initiative**

# SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from  
the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

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## Congratulations!



to the SLI's **first Canadian certified member**

**Surrey Libraries**

Surrey, British Columbia, Canada

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

Surrey Libraries Press Release

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Comsewogue Public Library

**Location:** Port Jefferson Station, New York

**Membership:** SLCP Certified Public Library



In partnership with a town councilman and the Long Island Bicycle Cooperative, Comsewogue Public Library became an early adopter of the Bike Borrow Program: a function of the NYS Department of Transportation's Statewide Mobility Services Program that brings resources and technical assistance to

disadvantaged communities. The library serves a community with a substantial concentration of multi-family homes and a lack of public transportation. The initiative hopes to provide more job access and health and recreation opportunities to its users. With the bike borrow program, patrons 18 years of age and older may borrow a bicycle from the library for up to two weeks with nothing but a liability waiver and their library card. The library's nonprofit partner manages any maintenance and repair of the bicycles, easing the responsibilities of library staff.

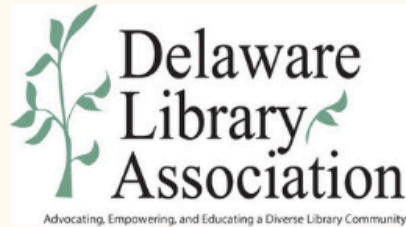
**"The Bike Borrow Program will help fill transportation needs and lets residents engage in cycling for recreation and health. This program for adult members of the Library is equitable, sustainable, and made possible through local and regional partnerships,"** said Comsewogue Public Library Director Debbie Engelhardt.

Have any ideas you'd like to share? Fill out the form below!

Want to be featured? Complete the submissions form!

# SLI UPDATES

## **The Sustainable Libraries Initiative Partners with the Delaware Library Association**



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

Through this partnership, DLA joins 9 other states including Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, and Virginia in committing to sustainability by ensuring access to sustainability tools, webinars, vendors, program ideas, and educational materials.

"The Delaware Library Association is excited to join a growing community of library workers that are collaborating and learning in a space dedicated to sustainability and the triple bottom line," said Scott Businsky, President of the Delaware Library Association. "Our partnership with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative will help libraries in Delaware create thriving communities throughout our state."

Members of the Delaware 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.

Click the links below to register for introductory webinars designed to welcome members of our new partner associations!

[Read the Press Release](#)

WEBINAR: Introduction to the SLI — December 11 @ 2:00 pm EST

WEBINAR: Introduction to the SLCP — December 12 @ 10:00 am EST

## Upcoming Webinars

To better serve you, we've curated a series of valuable upcoming sessions. Participants in the certification program may attend some of these sessions to fulfill certain action items. All links to register can be found below.

### **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.

### **AI and the Environment**

- Thursday, January 22 @ 2:00 pm EST

Join us for an engaging webinar presented by San Diego State University Sciences and Sustainability Librarian Sarah Tribelhorn exploring the environmental impacts of artificial intelligence (AI). This session will provide a foundational overview of AI: what it is, how it works, and how it's increasingly integrated into everyday life. We will then examine the environmental footprint of AI technologies, including energy consumption, data center demands, and electronic waste. Gain insights and practical knowledge to help foster informed conversations with your community about responsible technology use and its role in a sustainable future.

WEBINAR: Naturalist-in-Residence

WEBINAR: AI and the Environment

## 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:



Northfield Public Library  
Northfield, Minnesota



Oceanside Public Library  
Oceanside, California

### Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

#### Public:

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| • Forrest City Public Library                     | Forrest City, Arkansas |
| • Frankenmuth Wickson District Library            | Frankenmuth, Michigan  |
| • Hastings Public Library                         | Hastings, Michigan     |
| • Peter White Public Library                      | Marquette, Michigan    |
| • Timothy C. Hauenstein Reynolds Township Library | Howard City, Michigan  |

#### Personal:

- |                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| • Gab Smith      | Damariscotta, Maine  |
| • Scott Businsky | New Castle, Delaware |

#### Library System:

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| • Nevada State Library | Carson City, Nevada |
|------------------------|---------------------|

# FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**December 4**

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

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 EST

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 EST

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



**March 5**

**SLCP Meetup: Financial Sustainability**  
1:00 pm EST

Join SLI staff and guest speakers in a group discussion on financial sustainability: a crucial component of the triple bottom line. All are welcome!

REGISTER NOW



December SLCP Meetup: Collective Impact

January SLCP Meetup: Social Cohesion

February SLCP Meetup: Resilience Planning

March SLCP Meetup: Financial Sustainability

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 28.39M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 3.41K trees!](#)  
Keep up the good work!



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