Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Introduction to the **Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP)**

Panelists:
Cheryl Jones, Library Director, Mamakating Library
Joanna Goldfarb, Sustainability Innovation Consultant, Ramapo Catskill Library System

Moderator:
Alex Blend, Sustainability Coordinator, Sustainable Libraries Initiative

12/12/25

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

ARSL
THE ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL & SMALL LIBRARIES

Delaware Library Association
Advocating, Empowering, and Educating a Diverse Library Community.

ILA IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MARYLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MLA Massachusetts Library Association

Maine Library association

MLA MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

NJLA

NYLA NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
The Voice of the Library Community

Vermont Library Association

VLA VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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

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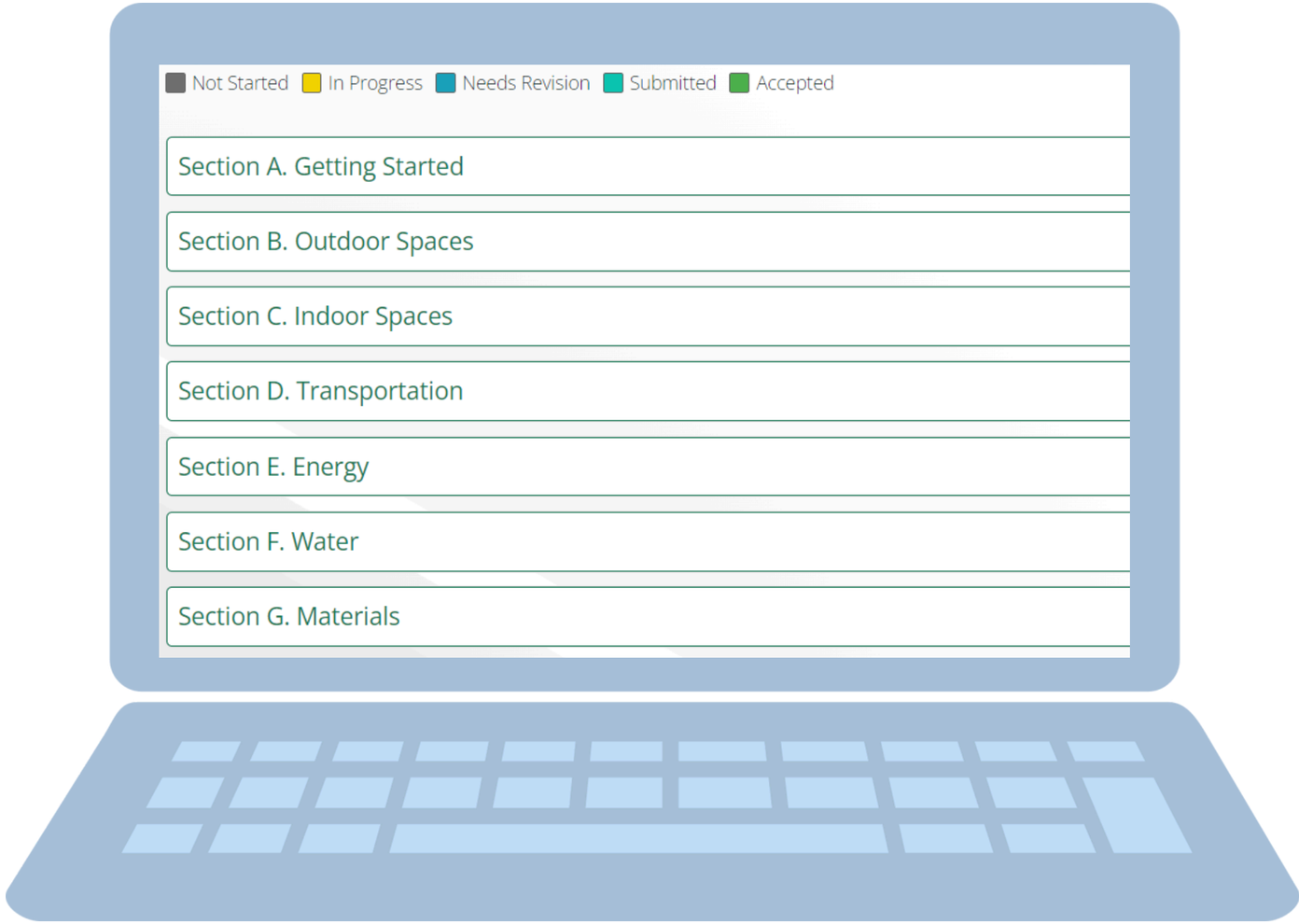
https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/

Sustainable Library Certification Program

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



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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

A.1. First-generation Sustainability Team

A.2: Presentation to Library Administration

A.3: Presentation to Library Board

A.4: Presentation to Library Staff

A.5: Sustainability Policy

A.6: Purchasing Policy

A.7: Staff Survey

A.8: Second-generation Sustainability Team

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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

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

- 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

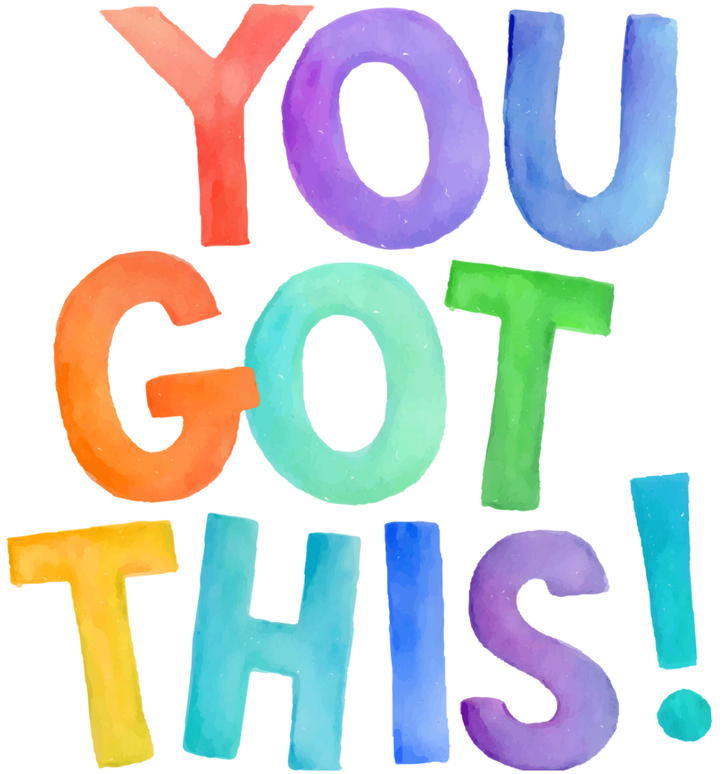
Explore how public libraries across the country have transformed their services, facilities, and operations to lead in sustainability.

Mamakating Public Library

Ramapo Catskill Library System

Your Mentor

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



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Connect with Others

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

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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

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 sliadmin@suffolknet.org for information and details.

Panelists

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Library Director,
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Joanna Goldfarb,
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Ramapo Catskill Library System

To access your free membership

1. Go to the SLI web site: https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org
2. Click on “Participate” --> “SLI Membership”
3. Choose the membership type and fill out the membership form
4. When you get to “How did you hear about us?” select “Other” and enter you are a member of a participating library association in the Notes field to waive the membership fee

To access the discounts on the Certification Program email: sliadmin@suffolknet.org for information details

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