



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

January 2026



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Libraries
Initiative**

SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from
the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

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Congratulations!



Melissa King

Gaithersburg, Maryland



John Jermain

Memorial Library

Sag Harbor, New York

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

[Melissa King Press Release](#)

Melissa King Final Presentation

John Jermain Memorial Library Press Release

John Jermain Memorial Library Final Presentation

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Lindenhurst Memorial Library



Location: Lindenhurst, New York

Membership: SLCP Certified Public Library

Sustainability is the common thread for many interconnected programs at the Lindenhurst Memorial Library.



Throughout the year, harvests from the library's "backyard" garden or indoor tower garden, aptly named Edgar Allan Grow, are creatively incorporated into programming for all age groups. In September, the library put on a pickle-making program.



Patrons sampled fermented pickles made prior by librarians with dill and cucumbers picked from the library's gardens. Afterwards, patrons received the recipe and some fresh dill to take home to create their own jar.

In November, a program for children in grades 3-5 provided the opportunity for participants to harvest chives from the tower garden and sage from the backyard to create their own herb butter.

Another popular program used sage and lavender harvested from the library's gardens to create essential oil rollers.

"I am excited about working with our teen librarian in the spring to bring sustainability to young adult programming," said Adult Services Librarian Kara Thomas. **"We recently purchased an herbal infusing machine and plan on using it to make healthy gummy bears with culinary lavender grown on the tower garden."**



For the holidays, the library hosted a holiday wreath making workshop in which most materials were foraged from the environment. Adult services librarian Kara Thomas collected greenery trimmed from trees in her own yard, and patrons were encouraged to bring flowers, dried fruit, pinecones, and more to decorate.

Also tying in with the library's tower garden, Kara and another adult services librarian run a quarterly book discussion called "Eat This Book." A memoir or other non-fiction book focusing on food or cooking themes is selected, the librarians make a dish inspired by the book from home-grown ingredients, and patrons are invited to enjoy the food while conversing about the selected title. One example (*pictured*) was a salade niçoise with library-grown gourmet lettuce inspired by *My Life in France* by Julia Child.



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

[Lindenhurst Memorial Library Sustainability Webpage](#)

Want to be featured? Complete the submissions form!

SLI UPDATES

Upcoming Conferences

New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference

- February 17-19, 2026
- Atlantic City, New Jersey

Come find our booth on the exhibit floor!



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.

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: 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:



University of British Columbia Library
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada



Orono Public Library
Orono, Maine



Southern Area Library
Lost Creek, West Virginia

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

Public:

- Cedar Springs Public Library Cedar Springs, Michigan
- Easton Library Easton, New York
- Linn County Law Library Albany, Oregon
- Oxford Library Company Oxford, Pennsylvania
- Petoskey District Library Petoskey, Michigan

Personal:

- Julianna Robbins Long Beach, California
- Rachel West Hockessin, Delaware
- Sandra McCarthy Ann Arbor, Michigan

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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

April 9

SLCP Meetup: Collections
1:00 pm EST

Join us to learn helpful tips from fellow SLCP members, join in on a discussion about sustainability, and ask general or topic-specific questions. We hope to see you there! All are welcome

REGISTER NOW

January SLCP Meetup: Social Cohesion

February SLCP Meetup: Resilience Planning

March SLCP Meetup: Financial Sustainability

April SLCP Meetup: Collections

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 29.26M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 3.51K trees!
Keep up the good work!



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