

LINDA HALL LIBRARY
SCIENCE • ENGINEERING • TECHNOLOGY



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**



Sustainable Libraries Initiative Certification: Final Presentation

Linda Hall Library



Who we are

- ◆ Established in 1946 by Herbert and Linda Hall in Kansas City, MO
- ◆ Public research library with a focus on science, technology, and engineering
- ◆ Urban arboretum surrounding the Library with over 300 trees, open to the public
- ◆ One of the world's largest independent science research libraries
 - ◆ One of approx. 22 [Independent Research Libraries](#)
- ◆ Over 70 employees
- ◆ Physical library collection contains over 1.5 million physical items

Linda Hall Library Purpose, Mission, & Vision



Purpose: To deepen humanity's understanding and appreciation of science and its integral role in shaping our world

Mission: To use our collections and other resources to inspire curiosity, innovation, and cultural engagement with science, through collecting, education, and interpretation

Vision: A world in which science is celebrated as a vital part of our histories, lives, and futures

Why pursue the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program?



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**



Set a clear path forward for Linda Hall Library (LHL) to start thinking about and implementing sustainable initiatives



Aligned with LHL's four strategic priorities of: Assets, Influence, Institution, and **Sustainability**



Clear commitment to the triple bottom line of sustainability:

- Environmental stewardship
- Economic feasibility
- Social equity

Library Engagement and Buy-In

- ◆ Internal, intradepartmental Sustainability Committee founded in 2023
- ◆ [Sustainability Policy](#) written and shared
- ◆ Implementation of a [3-year strategic plan](#) emphasizing sustainability
- ◆ Monthly, internal newsletter highlighting sustainability initiatives at the Library and in our community and “Green Reads” book recommendations

Celebrating Sustainability Efforts in 2025!

As 2025 draws to a close, the Sustainability Committee celebrates a year full of achievements and environmental responsibility. In April, we celebrated Earth Week with a host of activities, many of which were open to the public as well as to staff. Presentations on composting, reducing waste and exploring nature in our very own Arboretum were among the most popular offerings during our Earth Week extravaganza. Throughout the year, Victoria Proctor's Green Reads reviews helped to raise awareness for environmental issues and to promote sustainability. The Fall Wardrobe Remix was held in late August and provided fashion options for all members of staff. The Green Commute Challenge was held throughout the month of October and resulted in a third-place showing for Linda Hall Library, with the Kansas City Public Library and HNTB beating us out for first and second place.

Most importantly, Linda Hall Library continues to progress toward our Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) certification. New signage, accessibility proposals, ongoing educational efforts and the Waste Audit were all part of our efforts to qualify for this important certification. At present, we are approximately 82 percent of the way toward the listed requirements for certification. Everyone on the Sustainability Committee looks forward to an even more environmentally responsible 2026!

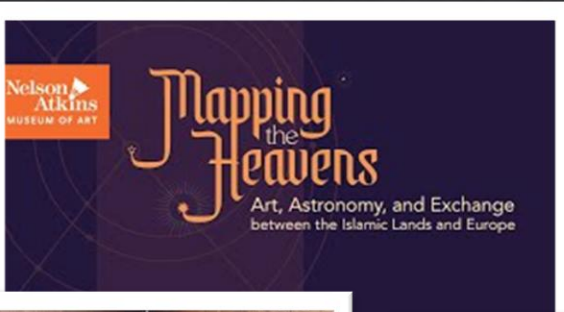


SUSTAINABILITY VALUES

The Linda Hall Library is committed to being an eco-conscious organization with the goal of reducing our environmental impact and promoting a healthier, more sustainable future for all. We follow the “**Triple Bottom Line**” definition of sustainability by embodying practices that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable. In 2023, the Library was the first Independent Research Library Association (IRLA) member to be enrolled in the **Sustainable Libraries Initiative's** Certification Program. In 2024, we were awarded the **NEH Climate Smart Challenge grant**.

Our commitment includes a Sustainability Committee with representation from across the institution. The team focuses on practicing the Triple Bottom Line through engagement and education within the community while celebrating the different cultures and diversity amongst staff and Library patrons to ensure all feel welcome, safe, and valued.

Community Engagement



- ◇ Creation of [Casual Reading](#) and Invention & Innovation Collection spaces to improve Library's status as a "Third Place"
- ◇ Continued to host and run the [Kansas City Invention Convention](#)
- ◇ Sustainability related [programming](#)
- ◇ Increased scope in our community through partnerships with:
 - ◇ Nelson Atkins Art Museum – [NEH Climate Smart Grant & exhibitions](#)
 - ◇ Missouri River Bird Observatory – Earth Day Programming
 - ◇ WWI Museum – [Speaker programs](#)
 - ◇ Kansas City Public Library – [Lunch & Learn Programs](#)
 - ◇ BioNexus KC – [Science2Art](#)

Social Well-Being

- ◇ Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Statement created and approved by library leadership, the Board of Trustees, and [posted on website](#).
- ◇ Conducted surveys to gather patron & community member feedback
- ◇ Employee benefits: PTO, Employee Assistance Program discounted gym access, WFH or “Personal Time”
- ◇ Professional Development opportunities for staff
- ◇ Introduction of Volunteer Time Off Policy
- ◇ Conducted an Accessibility Audit on Library spaces and website to provide leadership with recommendations



HR UPDATES

Professional Development

Linda Hall Library supports professional development and training for all staff through professional development funds. Any employee is welcome to apply to utilize these funds by submitting a training or development proposal to their direct supervisor. It is then the supervisor's responsibility to divide shared departmental funds to ensure that their employees' professional development goals can be met. Reach out to your supervisor with questions.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY, AND INCLUSION

At Linda Hall Library, we are committed to fostering a culture of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) that reflects the rich tapestry of the global community we serve. We believe that a diverse and inclusive environment enhances the intellectual rigor and cultural vitality of our institution, enriching the experiences of our staff, patrons, and partners. We strive to create a welcoming space where all individuals feel valued and respected. Through our collections, programs, and community engagements, we are dedicated to promoting equity and accessibility. By amplifying varied voices and ensuring universal resource access, we broaden participation and maximize our impact, fostering a more inclusive and enlightened society.

Financial Sustainability

- ◇ Budget determined on a yearly basis and assessed continuously based on Linda Hall Library's trust and endowment
- ◇ Additional funds raised through multi-pronged approach:
 - ◇ Document Delivery
 - ◇ Space Rental
 - ◇ Memberships
 - ◇ Starting in 2026: Gift Shop
- ◇ Minimize patron material costs through:
 - ◇ Providing free digital resources & scanning technology
 - ◇ Research Fellowships
 - ◇ Free educational activities & presentations
 - ◇ Financial support for school programs
- ◇ Living Wage advocated for by Sustainability Committee

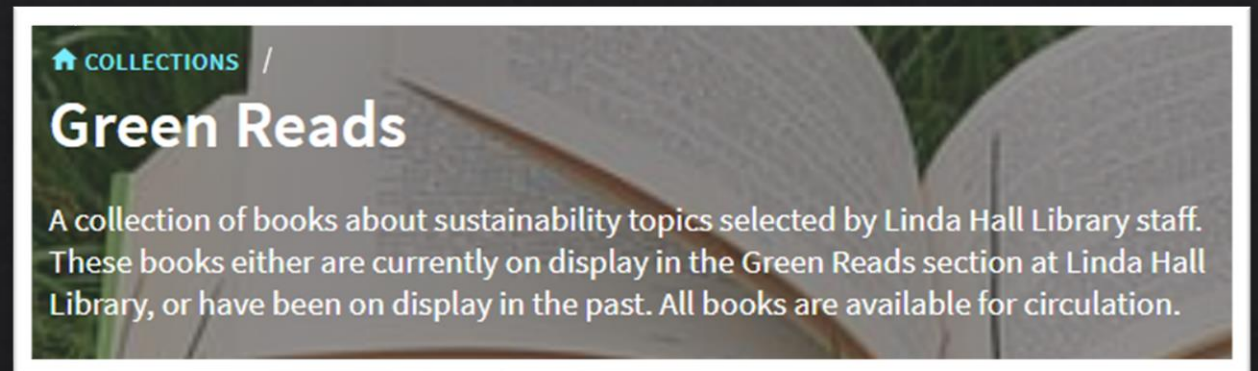


	Member Benefits			
	PATRON \$1,250	BENEFACTOR \$3,000	SUSTAINER \$5,000	LEADERSHIP \$10,000
Recognition on Lobby Display	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual Report Listing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Quarterly President's Circle Newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓
Early Access to Exhibitions	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitations to Exclusive Pre-Event Receptions	✓	✓	✓	✓
Special Invitations to State of the Library and Arbor Day Events	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to Members-only Rare Books Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reserved Seating for Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to Annual Bartlett Lecture Reception	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to Curated Arboretum Tour		✓	✓	✓
Behind the Scenes Programs		✓	✓	✓
Curator-led Private Rare Book Showing for up to 10 People (Subject to availability.)			✓	✓
Private Lunch with the President				✓
Invitation to Lunch with a Visiting Speaker				✓

The President's Circle benefits are fully tax deductible and considered to be insubstantial goods and services according to IRS Publication 1771.

Collections & Services

- ◇ Collection Development Policy that codifies sustainable decisions made when adding and maintaining the collection
- ◇ Continued participation in several consortium-style collection development processes (with the [Clendening History of Medicine Library](#), [UMKC](#), [KCPL](#), [LoC](#), and [Center for Research Libraries](#))
- ◇ Maintain a records retention schedule for internal documents
- ◇ Collect primarily print-based materials to prioritize longevity of access and usability for all patrons
- ◇ Materials removed from library premises are reused or recycled if possible
- ◇ Creation of an [Open Access Resource Guide](#) for LHL patrons
- ◇ Monthly [Green Reads](#) review, blog post, and display highlights books about sustainability



Organizational Commitment

- ◆ [3-year strategic plan](#) emphasizing sustainability
- ◆ Internal, intradepartmental Sustainability Committee
- ◆ Most of the library buildings are from 1950-1970's, however, future building construction and renovations will prioritize sustainable design principles
 - ◆ The 2005 construction which added a new wing to the Library included installing a geothermal field and on-demand water heaters



Benchmarking



- ◇ Continue to use [Energy Star Portfolio Manager](#) and [Johnson Controls Building Automation](#) to monitor energy, gas, and water use and report to the city
- ◇ [i-Tree](#) tools used to collect and maintain data on how the Library's arboretum trees decrease overall carbon emissions and air pollution
- ◇ Developing an energy savings assessment report through consultation from NEH Climate Smart Grant collaborations



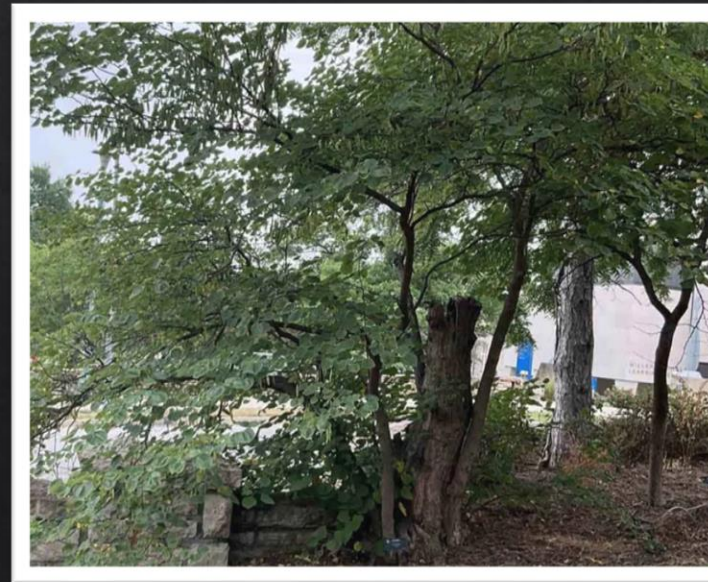


Education & Influence

- ◆ Hosted first annual Earth Day Event in 2024 and expanded to [a week of Earth Day events](#) in 2025
 - ◆ Events included: Green Reads book discussion, birding walk, waste diversion presentation, “Greening your Household Chores” presentation, native pollinators presentation, composting in KC presentation, mindful Pilates, a presentation on environmentalism throughout history as seen in our rare books collection, and vegan ice cream
- ◆ Established an annual clothing swap with library employees
- ◆ Sustainability Committee shares sustainability tips and information with staff members in each monthly internal newsletter
- ◆ LHL’s [social media profiles](#) frequently share sustainability news and tips
- ◆ “Sustainability Corner” established in Main Reading Room to promote both internal sustainability initiatives and other community organizations doing important sustainability work

Water Management

- ◇ Posted signage in bathrooms to remind staff members to alert the Facilities Department if they notice a leak
- ◇ Weather-based sprinkler system in place to reduce the risk of overwatering grounds
- ◇ The Library's arboretum contains a [native plants garden](#) managed by Grounds staff





Energy Management

- ◇ All new computer equipment purchased for the library and employees is ENERGY STAR qualified
- ◇ Created a Sustainable Procurement Policy to codify best practices
- ◇ Over 5,500 bulbs replaced with LEDs within Library buildings
- ◇ 75 motion detector-activated lights in employee-only stacks areas
- ◇ “Last out? Light out” signage installed in office spaces, breakrooms, and bathrooms





Waste Management

- ◆ LHL's IT department continues to coordinate e-waste recycling with [Midwest Recycling Center](#).
- ◆ Established monthly glass recycling pick-up with [Ripple Glass](#) in 2024.
- ◆ Purchased dual trash-recycling bins to encourage library patrons to recycle.
- ◆ Facilities team exchanged toxic cleaners for more environmentally-sound cleaning products like [Suprox](#) and utilizes dilution stations to ensure proper ratios of chemical cleaners to water to avoid overuse.
- ◆ Document Delivery team delivers many materials electronically. When shipping is required, they reuse packing materials.
- ◆ Conducted mini waste audit to identify stakeholders and practice the process before conducting a full audit in 2026 with outside consultants.



Transportation Management

- ◆ Public transportation options (bus, streetcar, and e-bike) shared with staff and patrons [on the library website](#) and via a poster in the Main Reading Room.
- ◆ LHL employees encouraged to participate in annual October “Way to Go KC: Green Commute Challenge”.
 - ◆ LHL received third place in this challenge two years in a row (2024 & 2025)
- ◆ Maintain bike rack on grounds for bike commuters and emphasize nearby “RideKC” e-bike hub a block from the Library.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

OPTIONS TO ACCESS
LINDA HALL LIBRARY

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Major Bus Routes:

 **Troost MAX:** exit at Troost Ave @ 52nd Street stop (by Rockhurst University) 

Check the RideKC website or Google Maps for the most up-to-date routes

 **KC Streetcar:** exit at UMKC 51st and Brookside stop

 **RideKC Bikes:** Nearest bike racks are next to Whole Foods or North of LHL on UMKC’s campus. Download app to use.

ENJOY THE JOURNEY.

Take greener ways to work this October.

WAY TO GO
Green Commute Challenge

Future Goals

- ◇ Create a page on LHL's website to highlight sustainability accomplishments, sustainable partnerships, and resources for patrons (ex. geothermal heating system, LED implementation, native plants in our arboretum, etc.)
- ◇ Make the Main Reading Room more accessible with automatic doors, ramps, and additional signage and more comfortable with furniture, lighting, and additional study rooms.
- ◇ Partner with Kansas City Public Library to create a seed library on-site to bring in additional audiences of gardeners.
- ◇ Improve the health and wellness of staff through the following initiatives:
 - ◇ **Expanding Free Wellness Resources:** Maintain a comprehensive list of free health and wellness resources available through LHL benefits.
 - ◇ **Enhanced Breakroom Comfort:** Create a more comfortable and inviting atmosphere in breakrooms and shared spaces.
- ◇ Pursue the following student-focused programs:
 - ◇ Work with [Literacy KC](#) to host a book club or "Big Read" at LHL
 - ◇ Partner with local robotics clubs or expand Kansas City Invention Convention services by offering a makerspace with a 3D-printer and other resources
 - ◇ Collaborate with [UMKC school of education](#) or their [early childhood center](#)



Thank you

The Linda Hall Library Sustainability Committee

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