



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

March 2026



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SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from
the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

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Join us!



Sustainable Libraries Initiative 2025 Annual Report

- March 27, 2026 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time
- Register with link below!

Join us as leaders of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative present the Sustainable Libraries Initiative's 2025 Annual Report! All are welcome to join us in sharing highlights, statistics, testimonials, and words of wisdom from the past year as an organization.

This presentation will be a cohesive recap of our growth, successes, reach, and impact as a community of practice, and will allow members and non-members alike to see how their involvement contributes (or could contribute) to the bigger picture.

2025 Annual Report Presentation

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Middle Country Public Library

Location: Centereach, New York

Membership: SLCP Public Library



The Middle Country Public Library has established an impressive toy library to live sustainable values out loud and support the youth and families in its community.



The toy library – approximately 300 items strong – reduces waste, saves families money, exemplifies a circular economy, promotes learning and accessibility, helps build skills in literacy, and supports cognitive growth in the library's littlest patrons.

In a "try-before-you-buy" model, the library loans out high-quality, classic toys with a library card: just the same as any book. Upon return, the toys are cleaned and returned to the collection. Toys include items such as blocks, manipulatives, infant toys, learning games, puzzles, musical instruments, trucks, and imaginative play sets.

The library also has a special collection of adaptive toys to support children with physical, developmental, or sensory needs and include items such as calming weighted lap toys, sensory tools, and switch-activated toys.



In addition, the Middle Country Public Library houses a Sensory Nook: a uniquely designed workspace that establishes a more inclusive environment by providing a safe place for self-regulation through sensory experiences.



The Sensory Nook is open to all children with their caregivers, though it is especially important for making learning more accessible for neurodivergent individuals and those with sensory processing disorders who may be uncomfortable or find it challenging to be productive in traditional library workspaces.



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

[Middle Country Public Library Website](#)

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

SLI UPDATES



Advisory Board Member Lisa Kropp on The Library Pros Podcast

Lisa Kropp, SLI Advisory Board member and Director of Lindenhurst Public Library shared insight on directorship, sustainability, and library advocacy on The Library Pros podcast last month. Click the link below to listen, or tune in wherever you listen to podcasts.

RCLS: America the Beautiful

The Ramapo Catskill Library System, an SLCP Certified Public Library System in New York State, has developed a LibGuide full of nature and sustainability themed program ideas to celebrate each month of the United States's 250th anniversary. Explore the guide with the link below!



NJLA Recap



The Sustainable Libraries Initiative had a presence at the New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference in February with a program and a table in the exhibit hall.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to say hello! It was great to see such a strong interest in sustainability within the library community, put some faces to the names we see in emails, and hear about the things you and your libraries are doing to move towards a greener future.

The Library Pros Podcast: Lisa Kropp

RCLS: America the Beautiful

Upcoming Conferences

Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference

- March 2-4, 2026
- Seattle, Washington

Join Sarah Tribelhorn, Morgan Barker, and Beth Filar Williams for a program on Tuesday, March 3rd at 11:15 am: *Academic Libraries as Essential Colleagues in Campus Sustainability Efforts*

This presentation explores the critical role of academic libraries as inclusive hubs and change agents in advancing campus sustainability and environmental justice. Libraries promote the triple bottom line, environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic feasibility, through establishing formal structures like Sustainability Committees and achieving organizational goals aligned sustainability and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative Certification Program, as well as through less formal pathways with sustainability embedded in all their work.

Texas Library Association Annual Conference

- March 29-31, 2026
- Houston, Texas



Join Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP) members for a Sunday afternoon program session on the 29th at 12:30PM: *Sustainable Libraries Initiative: Ideas for Every Type of Library*, presented by Susan Cooper (Georgetown ISD), Laura Smith (Harris County Public Library), and Savannah Monroe (Maud Public Library).

Sustainability, a core value of librarianship, means making choices that are good for the environment, make economical sense, and treat everyone equitably. A school librarian and two public librarians will describe their journey towards certification with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, share the changes they've implemented, and discuss how much of what libraries already do is in line with this value.

Public Library Association Annual Conference

- April 1-3, 2026
- Minneapolis, Minnesota



Check out these opportunities to connect with the SLI at the PLA conference!

Firstly, join the LOT Mutual Aid Group, SustainRT, and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative for two tours in Minneapolis, Minnesota on the 31st of March!

Registration (link below) is required in order to ensure we make enough space for all. Tours will begin at the Northeast Minneapolis Tool Library at 3 PM and continue after a 30 min walk or quick ride to the Minnesota Toy Library - Northeast Minneapolis Branch on Tuesday, March 31st at 4:30pm.

All are encouraged to consider a small donation to each organization, but none is required. Bring your questions and join us!



Next, join the Sustainable Libraries Initiative for an informal meet-up complemented by a guided tour of MSR Design's award-winning studio. Thanks to the generosity of host MSR Design, SLI peers will have time to convene nearby the Public Library Association Conference in a dynamic 14,400 sf workspace recognized for its remarkable integration of sustainable thinking in design choices.

Come for a quick hello or stay for the whole time! The 30-minute tour conducted by members of the design team will begin at approximately 11 am. It will explore the philosophy behind and execution of the renovation of this second-floor space in a 1925 office building in downtown Minneapolis: the first Living Building Challenge Petal-certified project in Minnesota for materials, equity, and beauty.

Join us for coffee, conversation, and non-conventional inspiration. Pre-registration is required. Click the link below for more information and to register!

Register for the Tool and Toy Library Tours!

MSR Sustainable Design Tour

The SLI will also be presenting at the conference!

Join SLI Advisory Board members for a program on **Thursday, April 2nd at 10:15 am: *From Anxiety to Action: Building Stronger Communities and Libraries***, presented by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Jennifer Ferriss, Lisa Kropp, and Hazel Onsrud.

According to a report from the office of the U.S. Surgeon General, loneliness and isolation are as devastating to our health as chronic conditions. Using the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program and the National Climate Action Strategy Guide, participants will leave with concrete examples of strategies, programs, and procedures to implement in their communities that will help combat loneliness while building more connected communities.



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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 EDT

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



May 14

SLCP Meetup: Final Presentation

1:00 pm EDT

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



June 4

SLCP Meetup: Getting Started

1:00 pm EDT

Are you new to the SLI and want to learn how to get started with your certification? Join us to discuss the first steps on your journey, and how to start off on the right foot!

REGISTER NOW



March SLCP Meetup: Financial Sustainability

April SLCP Meetup: Collections

May SLCP Meetup: Final Presentation

June SLCP Meetup: Getting Started

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 29.90M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 3.59K trees!](#)
Keep up the good work!



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