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**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

April 2025



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from
the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Issue Contents:

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Congratulations!



North Bellmore Public Library



North Bellmore, New York

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

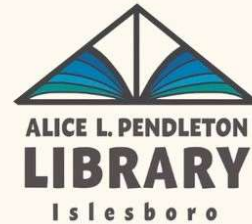
[Read the press release!](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Alice L. Pendelton Library

Location: Islesboro, Maine

Membership: SLCP Public Library



Taking advantage of its beautiful outdoor spaces, Alice L. Pendelton Library utilizes the space for good: bringing environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable practices to the surrounding community with a variety of gardens and programming.

Stormwater runoff is well taken care of on library grounds. A gravel parking lot, rain barrels, well drained roof runoff, and brick walkways inlaid with porous material allow precipitation to infiltrate the ground on every inch of library property, ensuring replenishment of the underlying aquifer and avoiding the transportation of contaminants from human activity into the surrounding sea.

The library also prides itself on its two well-kept gardens: a Children's Garden that is also used as an activity space, and their Remembrance Garden, the only public garden in Islesboro, where community members can contribute memorials to loved ones and enjoy the peaceful outdoors.



"The benefits of the action items in this section to the library have been huge. Our Remembrance Garden was overgrown, not very welcoming, and included invasive species. Now it's completely redesigned, by a professional garden landscaper and community member, and includes more open spaces, clear walking paths, more seating, more native plants and no invasive species. The library would not have undertaken this wonderful project without undertaking the SLCP," said Library Director Melissa Olsen.

The library's gardens, taken care of largely by the Friends of Alice L. Pendelton Library, are biocide free and are maintained by pulling weeds, hand-watering, and mowing larger areas.

The Children's Garden is often utilized for programming. Some programs conducted in the space include a petting zoo, pumpkin carving, and outdoor movies.



Have a great idea you're proud of? Fill out the form linked below to submit your idea for future editions of the newsletter!

[Alice L. Pendelton Library Website](#)

[Want to be Featured?: Form for Submissions](#)

SLI UPDATES

Co-Founders of the SLI Featured in the *American Libraries* Sustainability Issue

The sustainability-focused March/April 2025 issue of *American Libraries* magazine features both SLI co-founders, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Matthew Bollerman, as they share insights on the role of libraries in building resilient communities and taking the lead on sustainability work.



"The Sustainable Libraries Initiative has been proud to work with the American Library Association on many projects," said SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, "it is wonderful AL raises the profile of the work of so many library professionals highlighted in this important publication."

Aldrich authored an article (pages 36-37) that emphasizes the importance of embracing sustainable practices in the library profession while aligning with ALA's adoption of sustainability as a core value to uplift communities and protect them in the face of accelerating climate change.

"The Sustainability Issue of American Libraries shares the history of libraries work on this important topic and serves to inspire those in the field who see the intersection between libraries, the community they serve and the changes our world presents to each of us. I was honored to be a part of their reporting," said SLI Vice-President Matthew Bollerman.

Bollerman is featured in a panel interview written by Emily Udel (pages 26-33) on the role of sustainability in library leadership. He shares how libraries can get involved, take responsibility, and be better equipped to overcome challenges in our changing world.

Being given this platform to advocate for sustainable practices, and the benefits they bring to libraries and their communities, exemplifies the value in strong, sustainably-conscious leadership and the growing impact of the SLI's collection of resources and certification programs.

Read the full issue, the SLI's press release, and learn more about the SLI with the links below.

[Read the Press Release!](#)

[American Libraries March/April 2025](#)

SLI's Upcoming Presentations

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.

2024 Annual Report Presentation: Sustainable Libraries Initiative

- Friday, April 4th at 1:00 pm EST

Leaders of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative will be presenting the Sustainable Libraries Initiative's 2024 Annual Report! All are welcome to join us in sharing highlights, statistics, testimonials, and words of wisdom from the past year as an organization.

SAVE THE
DATE!



SLI 2024
Annual Report

Friday, April 4, 2025
1:00 PM EST



An Introduction to the National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries

- Tuesday, April 22 at 2:00 pm EST



Climate change is one of the grandest challenges facing our generation. The [National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries](#) was announced in 2024 by the American Library Association in partnership with the award-winning Sustainable Libraries Initiative in order to provide guidance and tools to help expedite climate action work in libraries. From working to reduce the impact library operations have on future climate change, to the pressing need for work to adapt in the face of the predicted impacts of climate change, to how to ensure climate action is done through a justice lens—the strategy helps library stakeholders better understand the context of decisions that will be made at your library in the coming years and how you can be a catalyst for positive change at your library and in your community. In addition to rolling out the strategy itself, a practical implementation guide with definitions, examples, and simple steps to get started was also released. This webinar will explain both the strategy and the implementation guide and help any library stakeholder identify a path forward on this important topic. This webinar is intended for all public library stakeholders: directors, library workers, library trustees, and Friends Group members. **Registration is free, but ALA membership is required.**

Green Jobs Webinar

- Thursday, April 24 at 2:00 pm EST
- Zoom link to register below

Join us for a free webinar exploring the exciting growth of green jobs! Learn about the latest trends and discover free online resources. We'll discuss strategies to help you build a successful library program. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and connect with fellow professionals in the field.

Getting Started with Climate Action Planning in Public Libraries



- Wednesday, April 30 at 2:00 pm EST
- Panelists: SLI Co-founder and President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Julianna Robbins of the California State Library, SLI Advisory Board member Margaret Woodruff, and SLI Secretary Lisa Kropp.

Climate action requires a focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions combined with increasing community resilience, all through a lens of climate justice. Join this webinar to find out where your time and energy can be best spent in the face of the overwhelming nature of climate action. Learn from library practitioners who have been early adopters of climate action through the award-winning Sustainable Library Certification Program to help organize your own thinking on how to implement a climate action plan at your library that will have the biggest impact locally and globally.

This is a paid webinar! The price is \$71.10 for ALA members, \$79.00 for non-ALA members, and \$47.40 for Public Library Association division members.

Subscribe to SLI Listservs!

Did you know the SLI has community Listservs?



Communicate with other SLI members easily by subscribing to one or more of our available channels: Public Libraries, Academic Libraries, School Librarians, and Public Library Systems!

Click the link below to find the subscription form, or reach out to sliadmin@suffolknet.org.

2024 Annual Report Presentation

An Introduction to the National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries

Green Jobs Webinar

Join an SLI Listserv!

Upcoming Conferences

In the month of May, you can find the SLI at the following conferences!

Maine Library Association Annual Conference

- May 19-20
- Sunday River Resort, Newry, Maine



Come visit our booth, attend our preconference session *From Anxiety to Action: How the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program Builds Stronger Communities*, listen to the keynote by SLI President Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, or attend our program on the 19th at 2:00 pm: *The Economic, Environmental and Equity Impacts of Sustainable Libraries*

Massachusetts Library Association Annual Conference

- May 18-20
- Sea Crest Beach Resort, North Falmouth, Massachusetts



Come visit our booth or attend our breakout session on the 18th from 12:30-3:30 pm: *"Let's talk about Sustainability with the Concord Free Public Library."*

Vermont Library Association Annual Conference

- May 19
- Killington Grand Resort Hotel, Killington, Vermont



New Jersey Library Association Annual Conference

- May 28-30
- Harrah's Resort and Casino, Atlantic City, New Jersey



Come visit our booth or attend our pre-conference session on the 28th: *From Anxiety to Action: How the Sustainable Libraries Certification Program Builds Stronger Communities.*

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:

**Amherst
College**

Amherst College
Amherst, Massachusetts

Buffalo & Erie County Public
LIBRARY

West Seneca Public Library
West Seneca, New York

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

Public Libraries:

- Public Library of Youngstown & Mahoning County Youngstown, Ohio

Academic Libraries:

- McGill University Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Personal Members:

- Rebecca King Arlington Heights, Illinois

Library Systems:

- South Central Regional Library Council Ithaca, New York



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

April 3

SLCP Meetup: Final Presentation

1:00 pm EST

Learn helpful tips from SLCP members, join in on a discussion about sustainability, and ask general or topic specific questions. We hope to see you there!

REGISTER NOW



May 1

SLCP Meetup: Getting Started

1:00 pm EST

We'll be discussing tips and strategies to getting started on your action item form! Our meeting will include guest speakers, as well as plenty of time for topic-specific and overarching questions.

REGISTER NOW



June 5

SLCP Meetup: Outdoor Spaces

1:00 pm EST

Whether it's designing an outdoor site management plan, planting native species and other gardens, or making decisions about how to control pests and weeds on premises - sustainably managing your outdoor spaces may be a challenge.

REGISTER NOW



July 3

SLCP Meetup: Indoor Spaces

1:00 pm EST

Whether it's promoting clean air quality, deciding on green cleaning products, or bringing a taste of nature inside - sustainably managing your indoor spaces brings a lot of material for discussion. Join us for this month's SLCP meetup!

REGISTER NOW



April SLCP Meetup: Final Presentation

May SLCP Meetup: Getting Started

June SLCP Meetup: Outdoor Spaces

Help Us Build Our Community!



The Sustainable Libraries Initiative is putting out a call for idea sharing from our members!

If you have any great **sustainable program ideas, sustainable vendors, policy examples, grant resources, or sustainable book recommendations**, please consider submitting your ideas to share with the SLI community.

As a community of practice, the SLI thrives on the diversity and dedication of our members to uplift and support each other down the same path. By sharing your ideas, you're helping out your peers and positioning yourself as an engaged member of the community.

Submissions are most needed by libraries/librarians located **outside of New York State, or in the school or academic setting**, but we welcome any and all suggestions.

The SLI also welcomes advocates interested in speaking at future SLCP meetups! Every month, the SLI hosts a meeting to discuss one broad aspect of sustainability. Although the meetups follow the pattern of the Sustainable Library Certification Program, all are welcome to join! To be eligible to speak, your library must be partaking in or have completed the SLCP. We are simply looking for volunteers to talk about their experience with the respective section and answer questions. Most presenters speak for 10-15 minutes and some like to provide a visual such as slides or pictures, but there are no strict guidelines: feel free to make it your own!

Thank you for your consideration!



Forms for submissions linked below (**you must be logged in to view them**) or email us at sliadmin@suffolknet.org to make your suggestion.

Program Idea Suggestion Form

Sustainable Vendor Suggestion Form

Grant Resource Suggestion Form

SLCP Meetup Speaker Volunteer Form

All Other Suggestions: Email sliadmin@suffolknet.org

Thank you to the Public Library Directors Association (PLDA) of Suffolk County [NY] for once again supporting the efforts of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative with your donation of \$2000!



Your generosity helps advance sustainable library practices and build resilient communities on an international scale. We deeply appreciate your encouragement!

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 22.96M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.76K trees! Keep up the good work!



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