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**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

May 2025



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Libraries
Initiative**

SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from
the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

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Register for Our Upcoming Webinar with The Seed Library Network!

A graphic for a webinar registration. On the left, a dark blue background features a grid of small potted plants. Text in white and yellow reads: "Sustaining a Seed Library: Borrowing Procedures & Community Donations" and "WEBINAR". Below this is the Sustainable Libraries Initiative logo and the date and time: "June 18, 2025 12:00 pm Eastern Standard Time". A "Register now" button is at the bottom. On the right, a photograph shows a smiling woman with long grey hair, wearing a brown t-shirt, holding a blue bag filled with colorful seed packets.

Sustaining a Seed Library:
Borrowing Procedures &
Community Donations

WEBINAR

 Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative

June 18, 2025
12:00 pm
Eastern Standard Time



Register now

Read more about our upcoming webinar and find the registration link in
"SLI Updates!"

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Center Moriches Public Library

Location: Center Moriches, New York

Membership: SLCP Public Library



Embracing the “net-zero waste” mentality, Center Moriches Public Library in New York recruited a teen volunteer to establish a creative solution for games with missing pieces.

By creating a free collection of miscellaneous game pieces, the library prevents the disposal of incomplete “tabletop” games to landfill.

The efforts of the library and teen volunteer Delaney Mattiolo were highlighted in a local newspaper: *The Long Island Advance*.

“Our “Missing Pieces” collection is consistently being used and it’s rewarding to see that our efforts are making a sustainable impact outside of our library. It is a free non-traditional service to offer our patrons that has them visiting the library and gives us an opportunity to show them other collections and services we offer. Everyone is a winner with this initiative.” said library director Marcie Litjens.

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

[Center Moriches Free Public Library Sustainability Website](#)

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

SLI UPDATES

Butterfield Memorial Library Highlighted in CURE100 Newsletter

SLCP Member Butterfield Memorial Library in Cold Spring, New York has been featured in the CURE100 newsletter for their replacement of oil heating with mini-split ductless air source heat pumps.



CURE100 (Communities United to Reduce Emissions 100%) is a not-for-profit consortium of communities that seeks to reduce global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to net zero urgently and with high priority, through a combination of advocacy, education and campaigns at the local and global levels.

In a quote taken from the feature, Butterfield Memorial Director Johanna Reindhardt said "The Butterfield Library is committed to sustainability, and converting from fossil fuels to heat pumps is one of the most important steps we can take. What would have been an overwhelming process was made simple with the expert guidance of CURE100. We are so grateful for the assistance in providing a comfortable, clean energy-powered library to our community and we wholeheartedly encourage others to do the same."

Read the full newsletter linked below!



Check Out These Resources for Climate Change Communication!

Having trouble communicating the importance of sustainability work to your community? Check out the following resources linked below to learn some new strategies and vocabulary to help you continue your work!

[CURE100 Newsletter](#)

[REPORT: How A Health Narrative Can Enhance Communication Of Six Key Truths About Climate Change With Diverse Audiences](#)

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.

Sustaining a Seed Library: Borrowing Procedures & Community Donations



- Wednesday, June 18th at 12:00 pm EST

Interested in starting or improving a seed library at your public library? Join Rebecca Newburn, Founder of the Seed Library Network for "Sustaining a Seed Library: Borrowing Procedures & Community Donations". This session will guide you through setting up borrowing procedures, increasing community seed donations, and vetting locally donated seeds to ensure quality. Learn best practices, get practical tips, and discover strategies to engage your patrons in seed saving. Whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your process, this class will provide the tools you need to grow a thriving seed library! 🌱

Speaker Bio:

Rebecca Newburn is a prominent advocate for seed conservation and community engagement, having played a pivotal role in the growth and popularization of seed libraries. Co-founder of the Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library and Founder of the *Seed Library Network*, Rebecca has been instrumental in creating a resilient and replicable model for seed libraries across the globe. Through her initiatives, she's championed the importance of preserving plant biodiversity, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and fostering community collaboration.



Sustaining a Seed Library: Borrowing Procedures & Community Donations

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."*

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.*



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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



June 18

Sustaining a Seed Library Webinar
12:00 pm EST

Interested in starting or improving a seed library at your public library? Join Rebecca Newburn, Founder of the Seed Library Network for "Sustaining a Seed Library: Borrowing Procedures & Community Donations"!

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



May SLCP Meetup: Getting Started

June SLCP Meetup: Outdoor Spaces

Sustaining a Seed Library: Borrowing Procedures & Community Donations

July SLCP Meetup: Indoor 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 sladmin@suffolknet.org

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.



OFFICE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

Thanks to the SLI's partnership with CCP Solutions, Sustainable Library Certification Program members have **collectively offset the equivalent of 23.49M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.82K trees!** Keep up the good work!



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