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**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

June 2025



**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

# SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from  
the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

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## Congratulations!



**SDSU**

**San Diego State  
University**

San Diego, California

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:** Avon Lake Public Library

**Location:** Avon Lake, Ohio

**Membership:** SLCP Public Library



With an IMLS summer reading program grant awarded by the State Library of Ohio, The Avon Lake Public Library enlisted the help of an Eagle Scout candidate to construct a children's garden. The garden is used for several library programs such as the "playing in the dirt" garden club, education on the benefits of locally grown food, and raising animals in tandem with indoor chick incubation.

Thanks to these programs, the library reports benefits of inspiring and instilling healthy habits in local youth, building community connections by bringing more people in to the library, and giving back to the community by letting the fresh food go home with kids or by donating it to the town's Community Resource Services.



The library is also home to one of seventeen "Ozone Gardens" in the United States: a collection of plants sensitive to harmful levels of ground-level ozone. Due to the plants' sensitivity to poor air quality, the garden serves as an indicator for air pollution that can lead to respiratory distress or damage in humans and other animals – allowing mitigative or adaptive action to be taken before the full extent of the consequences.

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

WebJunction: A Children's Garden at Avon Lake Public Library

Morning Journal: Avon Lake library offers end-of-season gardening experiences

Want to be Featured?: Form for Submissions

# SLI UPDATES

## Announcing Our New Partnership with the Vermont Library Association!



Vermont  
Library  
Association



Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative

A new partnership between the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) and the Vermont Library Association (VLA) aims to equip VLA members with tools and resources to address the challenges and mitigate the impact of climate change

Through this partnership, Vermont joins 6 other states including Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Virginia in committing to sustainability by ensuring access to sustainability tools, webinars, vendors, program ideas, and educational materials.

"We are very excited to work more closely with the Vermont Library Association and enable all of their members to accelerate their adoption of sustainable thinking," said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Board President of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, "Positioning the Vermont library community as leaders in the conversation about climate change mitigation and adaptation is a strong move to ensure libraries contribute to their community's resilience and remain relevant and responsive institutions."

Several Vermont libraries are already involved with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, including Norman Williams Public Library: the first to complete the certification program in the state earlier this year.

Members of VLA who opt-in via the SLI website will receive one free year of annual membership to the SLI and a 20% discount on the award-winning Sustainable Library Certification Program. Cohorts of five or more libraries will receive a 25% discount on certification, supporting the principle that there is power in collective action.

## Meet our New Advisory Board Members!

Responding to the rapid growth of the SLI and the greater need for representation from different library types and new geographic locations, the Sustainable Libraries Initiative has welcomed 3 new members to the advisory board. Join us in welcoming Mandi Goodsett, Sarah Tribelhorn, and Vincent Hyland by learning more about them with the bios below!



**Mandi Goodsett** is the Performing Arts & Humanities Librarian / OER & Copyright Library at Cleveland State University. She is the outgoing coordinator of ALA's Sustainability Roundtable, a co-founder of the Academic Library Association of Ohio's Sustainability Interest Group, and the founder of her library's Sustainability Interest Group. Her research interests include misinformation, sustainability in libraries, and generative AI uses in research, especially as they relate to environmental impacts.

**Sarah Tribelhorn** is the Sciences and Sustainability Librarian at San Diego State University. She has been instrumental in leading sustainability initiatives in the University Library, including the formation of a library Sustainability Committee and the Library's participation in the Sustainable Libraries Initiative Certification Program (SLCP) for academic libraries to benchmark sustainability within the library. Other initiatives have included mapping the work being carried out in the University Library to each of the 17 United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), increased campus and community engagement in sustainability projects, and the promotion of citizen science programming relevant to the community.







Vincent Hyland is a coordinator for the New York City School Library System. Previously, Vincent was a school librarian in a middle and high school in Brooklyn, NY. Vincent was a member of the team that updated the School Librarian Benchmarks for the SLCP, and is a mentor to librarians in New York City currently working through the program. He is a former president of the New York City School Librarians' Association.

## **Advisory Board Member Lisa Kropp Designated as a 2025 *Library Journal* Mover and Shaker**

Awarded under the "Change Agents" category, Lisa – library director at the Lindenhurst Memorial Library in New York – is celebrated by *Library Journal* for her success in modernizing her building and adopting sustainable values around every corner.

"I'm so grateful to have been recognized by my colleagues and *Library Journal* for the work the staff at Lindenhurst Library has accomplished since 2019, when we were named a certified sustainable library," said Lisa. "Our community has grown stronger because of the partnerships and programs we are able to offer in a newly renovated and expanded building, which is also a showcase for sustainable practices."



Click the links below to read the original posting to learn more about Lisa's accomplishment.

[Library Journal: Movers and Shakers - Lisa Kropp](#)

## Several SLI Members Receive ARSL's *Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries Grant*

The *Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries Grant* is awarded to small and/or rural libraries in CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, and VT looking to make facility improvements or enhance outreach and programming that provides the library with sustainability and enhances resilience.



Congratulations to the following members on your receipt of the grant:

### SLCP:

- Norman Williams Public Library (Woodstock, VT) **\*certified sustainable**
- Quechee Library (Quechee, VT)
- Rockport Public Library (Rockport, MA)

### SLI:

- Cook Memorial Library (Tamworth, NH)
- Readfield Community Library (Readfield, ME)

## Survey on Climate Anxiety



The American Library Association has greenlit a new book focused on how school and public libraries can help young people navigate the complexities of eco-anxiety or climate anxiety. Eco-anxiety is defined as "extreme worry about current and future harm to the environment caused by human activity and climate change". In a tumultuous world where eco-anxiety is a mental health crisis for young people, libraries and librarians have a vital role to play as community leaders, fostering sustainable thinking and action. If you work in a public or school library, please complete the survey with the link below to help ensure the book is as relevant and accessible as possible.

Sustainable and Resilient New England Libraries Grant

ALA Climate Anxiety Survey

## American Library Association Annual Conference



The Sustainable Libraries Initiative will have a presence at this year's ALA Annual conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania! Check out the boxes below for more information.

### Philadelphia Free Library Green Roof Tour

- June 27, 10:30-11:30 am



Join the Sustainable Libraries Initiative for a green roof tour at the Philadelphia Free Library! Encompassing 5,000 square feet on the south side of the building facing Logan Square, the green roof has more than 5,400 plants. The Library's green roof represents the first green roof on a city-owned building in Philadelphia. Green roofs offer energy-saving and environmental benefits by improving air quality, reducing runoff to sewer systems, and keeping buildings cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. **Space is limited, so pre-registration is required with the link below.** Please meet us in the lobby between 10:15 -10:30 am to check in prior to the start of the tour.

### Putting your Emergency Plan to the Test: Lessons Learned

- June 28, 4-5 pm
- Room 121 B C



Join SLI advisory board member Sarah Tribelhorn and SLCP team leads Eileen Caulfield of The Smithtown Library and Laura Smith of Harris County Public Library in their panel discussion on disasters and emergency preparedness.

How confident are you that your collections, equipment, and space can withstand an emergency? Hear from academic and public library leaders whose buildings experienced devastating damage, and how they used disaster and emergency preparedness plans to quickly move forward towards recovery. Having a plan in place saves valuable time when assessing damage, finding experienced vendors, and securing your facilities for staff and the public. Learn the building blocks needed to create a working disaster preparedness plan for your own library, and how to begin identifying weak points in your infrastructure that need attention before another natural disaster strikes.

Philadelphia Free Library Green Roof Tour Registration

## 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

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Partners with the Seed Library Network



# 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:**



Bissell Library, Anatolia College  
Thessaloniki, Greece

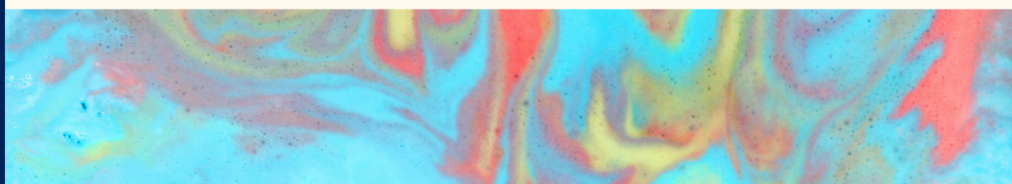


Gates Public Library  
Rochester, New York

## **Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:**

### **Public Libraries:**

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Ames Public Library        | Ames, Iowa               |
| • Harrison Village Library   | Harrison, Maine          |
| • Rakow Research Library     | Corning, New York        |
| • Robbins Library            | Arlington, Massachusetts |
| • Scarborough Public Library | Scarborough, Maine       |
| • Soldiers Memorial Library  | Hiram, Maine             |



# FOR YOUR CALENDAR

**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



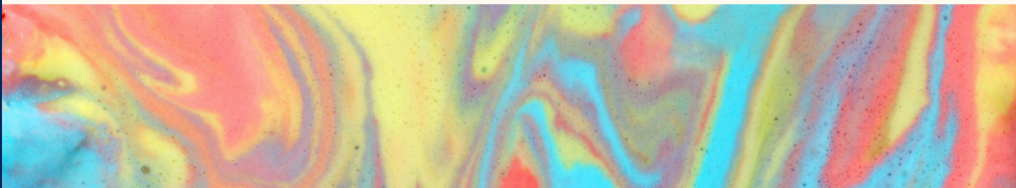
**August 7**

**SLCP Meetup: Transportation**

**1:00 pm EST**

Whether it's managing commuter miles for staff and patrons, offsetting your emissions, or managing a fleet- the sustainability of transportation can be a challenge. Join us in a discussion with your peers and bring questions!

REGISTER NOW



June SLCP Meetup: Outdoor Spaces

Sustaining a Seed Library: Borrowing Procedures & Community Donations

July SLCP Meetup: Indoor Spaces

August SLCP Meetup: Transportation

## 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 [sladmin@suffolknet.org](mailto:sladmin@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 [sliaadmin@suffolknet.org](mailto:sliaadmin@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.



Thanks to the SLI's partnership with CCP Solutions, Sustainable Library Certification Program members have collectively offset the equivalent of 23.84M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.86K trees!  
Keep up the good work!



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