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**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

July 2025



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Libraries
Initiative**

SLI Newsletter

The latest news and updates from
the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

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Welcome New Members!

Sustainable Library Certification Program Members:



Ames Public Library
Ames, Iowa



Clinton Public Library
Clinton, Iowa



Queens Public Library
Jamaica, New York



Randall Library
Stow, Massachusetts

Sustainable Libraries Initiative Members:

- Marianne McKenzie Indianapolis, Indiana

**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.**

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Fraser Valley Regional Library

Location: British Columbia, Canada

Membership: SLCP Public Library



Sustainable programming and partnerships take center stage at the Fraser Valley Regional Library.

In 2024 alone, the library hosted 44 sustainability programs including 17 repair cafes, 13 garden programs, and 14 sewing workshops.

The library celebrated Libraries Climate Action Week in November and demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable practices by recommending books on their podcast channel, curating lists for both adults and children, highlighting sustainability tips and resources via social media, and partnering with a local vendor to give away a eco-themed gift basket. In addition, internationally renowned author Gwynne Dyer visited the library to speak on his book *Intervention Earth* and share what it might take to save the planet.



Fraser Valley Regional Library builds connectivity in their community by partnering with the University of British Columbia to host a workshop series titled *Future Framing: Libraries, Climate, and Community* with a goal to bring neighbors together and imagine brighter, more resilient futures. Creative activities and collaborative

dialogue encourage participants to explore how libraries can take the lead on climate adaptation work, community connection, and maintaining hope for a better tomorrow.



The library also influences sustainability efforts within the profession. At the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) Conference, FVRL's Customer Services Specialist Diana Marshall presented on Read4Climate – a public awareness initiative developed in partnership with BCLA and the Ontario Library Association (OLA). FVRL's STEAM Specialist Brandon Monahan also presented at the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference on *How to Support Climate Change Goals Through Non-Traditional Lending* – a talk on library tool sharing for items such as thermal leak detectors, radon detectors, solar panels, nature packs, air quality monitors, and energy meters.

"At FVRL we believe libraries are more than buildings with books—they're hubs for transformation. Whether through a shared seed, a mended jacket, or a climate-focused conversation, we're proud to support our communities as they grow toward sustainability, one small step at a time," said Heather Scoular, FVRL Director of Customer Experience

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

Fraser Valley Regional Library Website

Read4Climate Resources: Library Toolshed

FVRL Playground (Library of Things)

SLI UPDATES

ALA Philadelphia: Conference Recap

ALA Annual | 2025

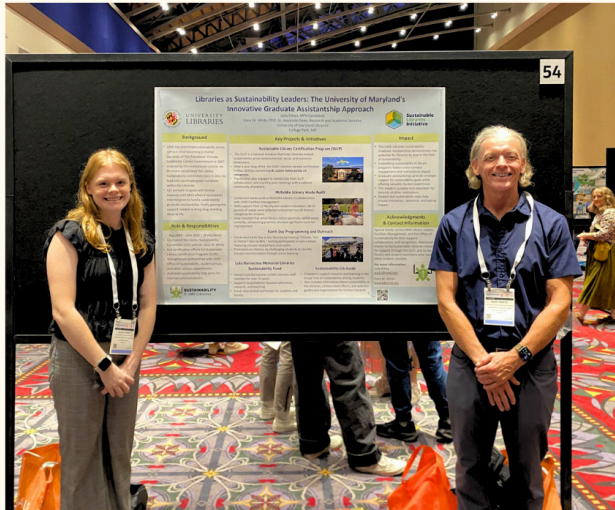
Conference & Exhibition

The Sustainable Libraries Initiative Community had quite the presence at this year's American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania!

First, several members joined together for a tour of the Philadelphia Free Library with a stop on the library's green roof: a rooftop garden of more than 5,400 plants overlooking Logan Square.

SLCP members Sarah Tribelhorn of San Diego State University, Laura Smith of the Harris County Public Library, and Eileen Caulfield of the Smithtown Library presented *Putting your Emergency Plan to the Test: Lessons Learned* – a panel on disaster preparedness.



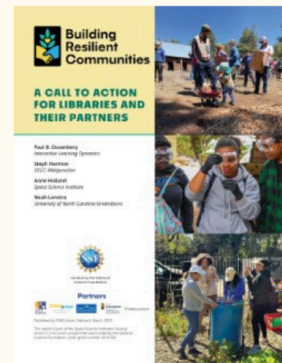


Lastly, Graduate Assistant Julia Ethan and Dr. Gary White of the University of Maryland presented their poster on *Libraries as Sustainability Leaders: The University of Maryland's Innovative Graduate Assistantship Approach*. The poster, available below, detailed the impact of the Sustainable Library Certification Program on their library,

the value in graduate assistantships to reaching sustainability goals, the positive impact of cross-campus partnerships, and the importance of student involvement.

A Call to Action for Libraries: Building Resilient Communities

The Building Resilient Communities (BRC) project has released a Call to Action for libraries that synthesizes the project's findings into practical recommendations for fostering cross-sector partnerships, centering equity and justice, and empowering communities to develop locally tailored resilience strategies. Find the resource below!



IFLA Tools for Green Libraries

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) released a document to provide resources and stories to help all people working in libraries to learn, investigate, find partners, and discover ways to get involved with sustainability in libraries. Find it linked below!

University of Maryland ALA Poster

Building Resilient Communities: A Call to Action

IFLA Tools for Green Libraries

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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



September 4

SLCP Meetup: Energy

1:00 pm EST

In this month's meetup, come learn how libraries are finding ways to reduce electricity expenditure, make heating and cooling systems more efficient, or make the swap to renewable energy solutions!

REGISTER NOW



October 9

SLCP Meetup: Water

1:00 pm EST

This month's meetup topic discusses the use of water in the library space such as finding ways to reduce your water consumption, making the swap to more efficient fixtures, or investigating alternatives to irrigation!

REGISTER NOW



July SLCP Meetup: Indoor Spaces

August SLCP Meetup: Transportation

September SLCP Meetup: Energy

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

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 24.59M letter pages of paper consumption by reforesting 2.95K trees! Keep up the good work!



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