An Introduction to the

Sustainable Library

Certification Program (SLCP)

Presented by: Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, SLI Co-Founder & Advisory Board President

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

A new opportunity…

- Free Sustainable Libraries Initiative membership for all Members

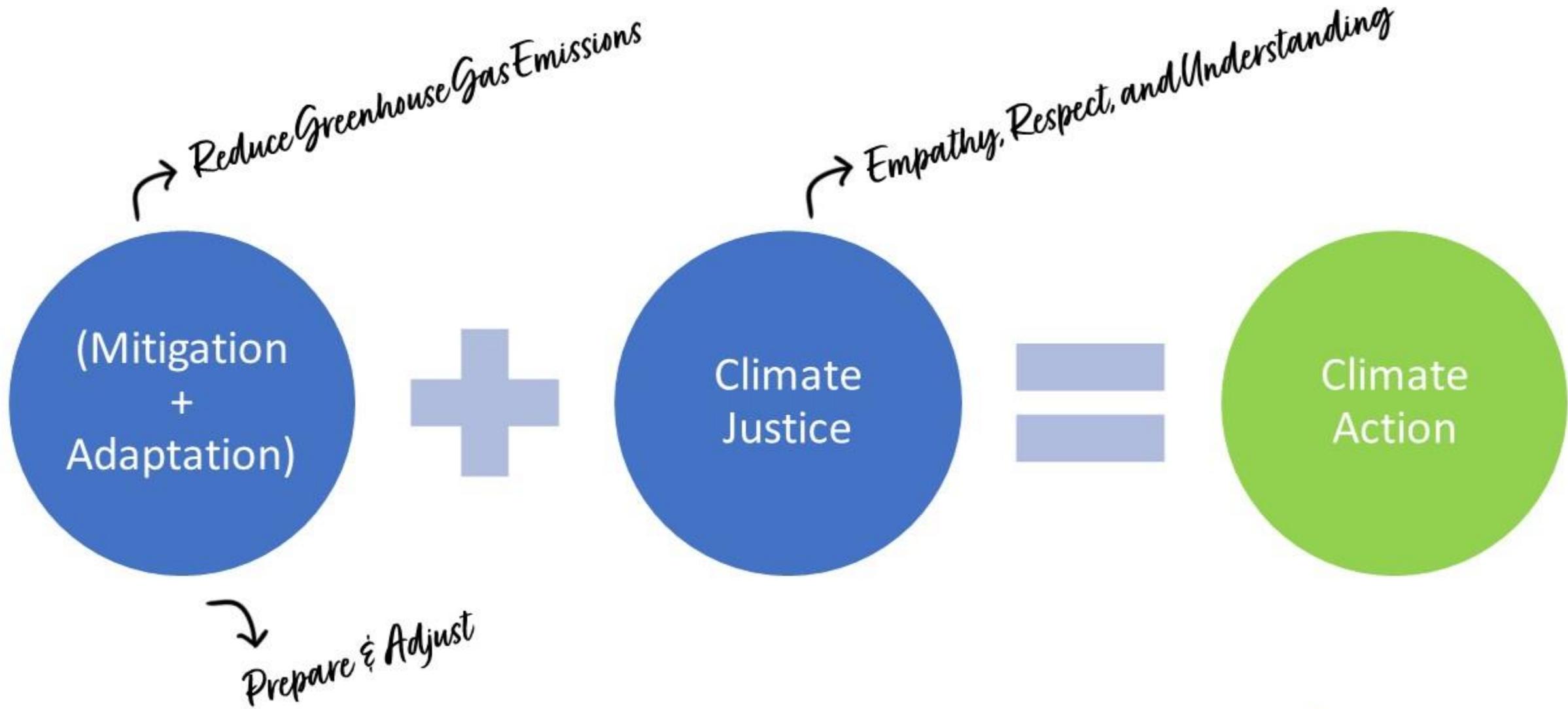- Discount on the Sustainable Library Certification Program

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Launched in 2015 as a community of practice for library leaders interested in addressing issues related to **climate change, community resilience and securing a vital, vibrant, and visible place** in the community/on campuses/in schools for libraries.
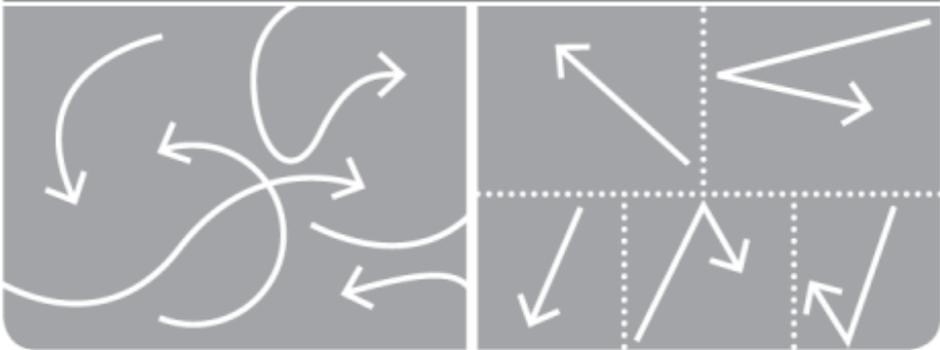
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Empathy, Respect, and Understanding

(Mitigation + Adaptation) **+** Climate Justice **=** Climate Action

Prepare & Adjust

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

CENTER FOR THE
FUTURE OF
LIBRARIES
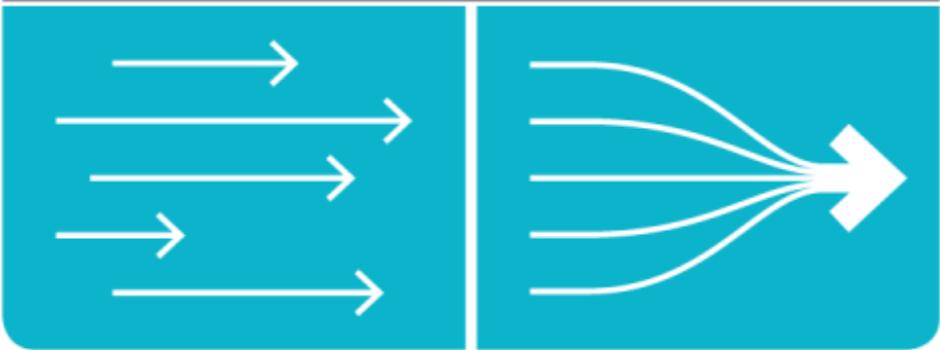ALA American Library Association

OLD / CURRENT BEHAVIOR

DISORDER & CONFUSION   ISOLATION

NEW BEHAVIOR

ALIGNMENT   COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Graphic: AllHandsRaised.org

EVERY JOB IS A CLIMATE JOB

PROJECT DRAWDOWN®

Sustainable Libraries

✓ **Strong & Authentic Institutions** that live their values out loud

✓ Catalyst for **Social Cohesion & Civic Participation** in Communities

✓ Working on **Climate Mitigation** (reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GhG)

✓ Active Participants in **Climate Adaptation** (strengthening community resilience)

Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative

"You've got to think about **big things** while you're doing **small things**, so that all the small things **go in the right direction.**"

-Alvin Toffler , futurist

How to create systemic change?

Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible

20% Discount
for individual libraries

25% Discount
for cohorts from your state

Sustainable Library
Certification
Program

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

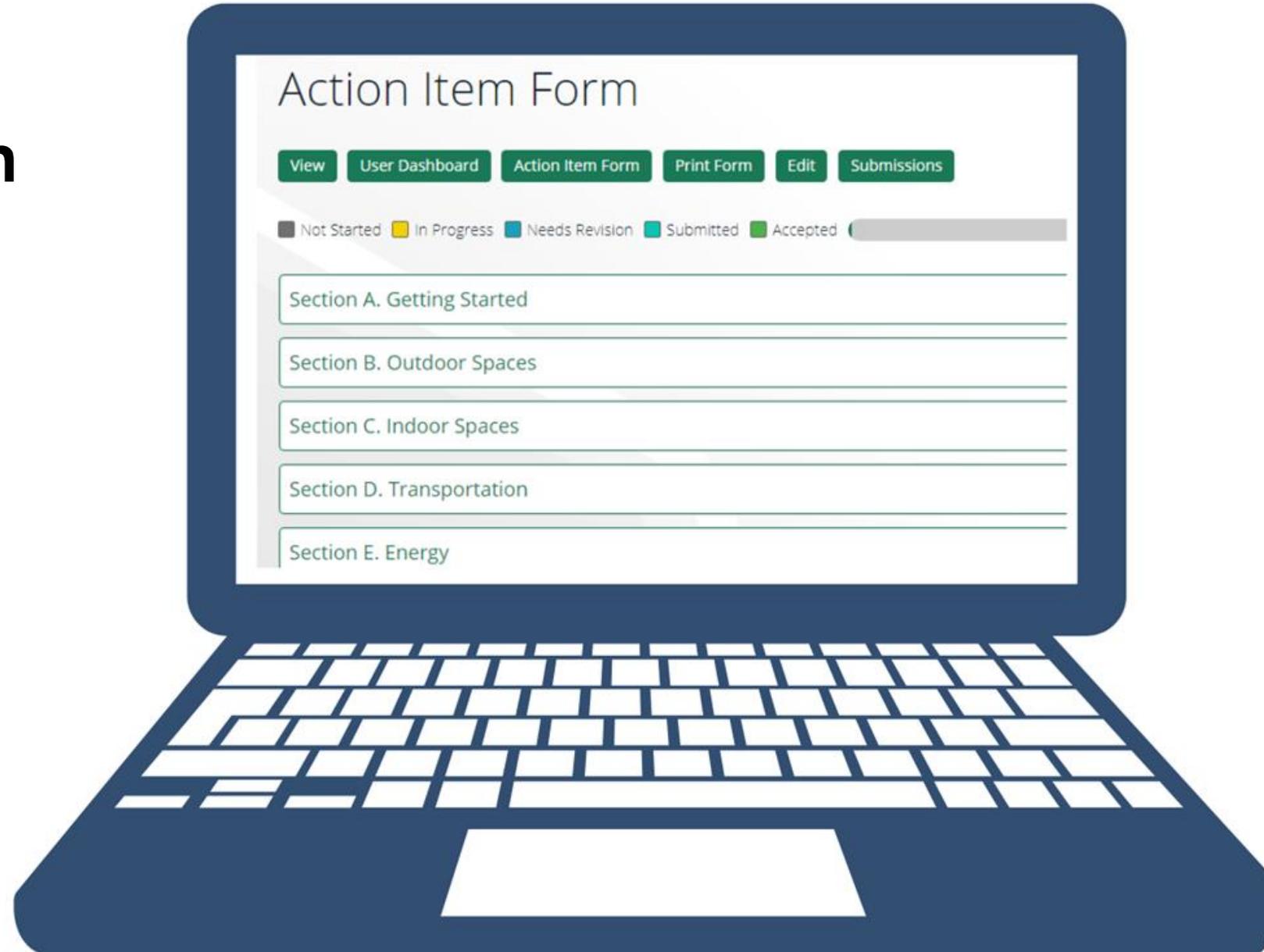https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/

SCAN ME

Sustainable Library Certification Program

- Step-by-Step Format

- Guidance from a Mentor

- Built-in Resources

- Community of Practice

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Action Item Form

View | User Dashboard | Action Item Form | Print Form | Edit | Submissions

■ Not Started ☐ In Progress ■ Needs Revision ■ Submitted ■ Accepted

Section A. Getting Started

Section B. Outdoor Spaces

Section C. Indoor Spaces

Section D. Transportation

Section E. Energy

Sustainable Library Certification Program

Public & Academic Libraries

- Organizational Commitment
- Energy, Land, and Water Use
- Waste, Recycling & Purchasing
- Partnerships
- Community Involvement
- Social Equity
- Community Resiliency
- Financial Sustainability
- Collections

SCAN ME

School Librarians

- Partnerships & Community Involvement
- Leading Beyond the Library
- Social Equity & Resiliency
- Standards & Curriculum
- Collections

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/

Required Actions

Accepted

B.1: Site Management Plan (Library Systems)

Accepted

B.2: Assess for Light Pollution (Library Systems)

Accepted

B.3: Litter Free Outdoor Spaces (Library Systems)

Accepted

B.4: Invasive Plants (Library Systems)

Accepted

B.5: Native Plants (Library Systems)

Accepted

B.6: Planting Areas (Library Systems)

Accepted

B.7: Chemical Pesticides (Library Systems)

Accepted

B.8: Herbicides (Library Systems)

Accepted

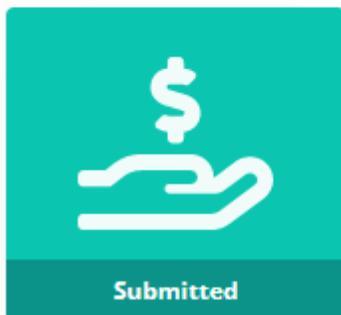**B.9: Storm Drains and Runoff Water (Library Systems)**

Accepted

B.10: Amend Facility Plan (Library Systems)

J.1: Mission Statement / Policy / Board Resolution

Demonstrate, through a mission statement, policy, board resolution or long-range plan, commitment to addressing community resiliency.

Submitted

Resources

- **Community Resilience Challenge, Transition United States**
- **Community Resilience, RAND Corporation**
- **Strategic Plan (2013-2017), Bellingham Public Library (page 7)**
- **Values Statement, West Vancouver Memorial Library**
- **Community Resilience and Public Libraries: Post Crisis Information and Connectivity, Shari R. Veil, MBA, Ph.D. & Bradley Wade Bishop, Ph.D., University of Kentucky**

Files

MHLS-Plan-of-Service-2022-2026.pdf

Notes

Through the current long-range plan the board has prioritized work in the area of community resiliency through The Library of Local Project. This project has resulted in five libraries being granted resources and support to be community resilience hubs and, in 2022, will add 11 more libraries to this project. We are truly committed to positioning libraries to be a catalyst for community resilience.

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM
66 LIBRARIES 1 GREAT COMMUNITY

CO$_2$ Calculator

CO2 Emissions Calculator

Input Your Use		Emission Type	CO2 Emissions
Electricity			
0	KWh	Electricity	0.000 metric tons
Building Fuel			
0	Gallons	Fuel Oil	0.000 metric tons
0	Therms	Natural Gas	0.000 metric tons
0	Gallons	LP Gas	0.000 metric tons
Fleet Fuel			
0	Gallons	Gasoline	0.000 metric tons
0	Gallons	Diesel	0.000 metric tons
Business Travel			
0	Miles	Vehicle	0.000 metric tons
0	Miles	Bus	0.000 metric tons
0	Miles	Train	0.000 metric tons
0	Miles	Air	0.000 metric tons
Commuter Travel			
0	Miles	Vehicle	0.000 metric tons

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Map of the U.N. SDG's to the SLCP's Action Items

Want to learn more about the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals?
Click here to visit the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs webpage

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Below is a list of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed by the United Nations. The SDGs represent a shared blueprint and an urgent call to action for a global partnership to create peace and prosperity for people of all countries and for the planet, now and into the future. To the right of the Sustainable Development Goals are three lists which maps out exactly how the SDGs where thoughtfully woven into each section of the Action Item form of the Sustainable Library Certification Program.

Sustainable Development Goals
1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health & Well-Being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality

SLI Public Library Category	SDG
A. Getting Started	5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 16
B. Outdoor Spaces	6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15
C. Indoor Spaces	6, 9, 14, 15
D. Transportation	11
E. Energy	7, 9
F. Water	6
G. Materials	2, 12, 13, 14, 15
H. Collective Impact	3, 4, 10, 16, 17
I. Social Cohesion	2, 3, 4, 10, 16, 17
J. Resilience Planning	8, 13
K. Financial Sustainability	1, 8
L. Collections	10, 12

SLI School Librarian Category	SDG
A. Partnerships & Community Involvement	2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 16, 17
B. Leading Beyond the Library	3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 16, 17
C. Social Equity & Resiliency	3, 4, 5, 11, 13, 16, 17

Telling Your Library's Story

- Library web site, newsletter, social media, annual report

- Reflection Questions & Data Points

- Networking in Your Community

- Final Presentation

- SLI Ambassador to your Peers: Mentor & Presenter

Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative

Your Mentor

- Led their own library through the SLCP

- Provides Advice & Support

- Helps you "Right-Size" Expectations

- Is your Cheerleader!

YOU GOT THIS

Growing Community of Practice

You're invited!

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

130+ libraries

across the U.S. and Canada

are enrolled in the

Sustainable Library Certification Program

(**250 libraries** in the membership)

Connect with Others

- Monthly Meet-up

- Listservs by Library Type

- Facebook Group

- Live Webinars Quarterly

- Conference Hangouts

Sustainable Libraries Initiative
Public group · 603 members

Team SLI at LLX in Baltimore (2024)

Benefits of Certification

- A Path Forward

- Reflective Process

- Step-by-Step Transformation

- Community of Practice

- Professional Development and Engagement

- Partnerships for Collective Impact

- Raise the Profile of the Library as a Recognized Leader on the topic of Climate Action and Community Resilience

Getting Started

At your library:

- Education for Key Stakeholders

- Understand: This is work. But not always "new" work.

- Form your 1st Generation Sustainability Team

With the Certification Program:

- Contact the Sustainable Libraries Initiative

- Web Site Orientation

- Meet Your Mentor

- Staff Survey

- Form 2nd Generation Team

- Rank the Actions in each Section:
  - What have you already completed?
  - What is in progress?
  - What is brand new to your library that will require a strategy?

- Build Your Plan

- Come to the Monthly Meet-Ups

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

It's a journey, not a destination.

CURTIS
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

FREE DINNER FOR ALL

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 19TH, 2 PM AND 5 PM

Register online at:
https://
curtislibrary.libcal.com/
event/8467234

MAINE
SNAP-Ed
Healthy Eating on a Budget

Merrymeeting Gleaners
at MCHPP

MCHPP
Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program

CURTIS
MEMORIAL
LIBRARY
A World of Possibility

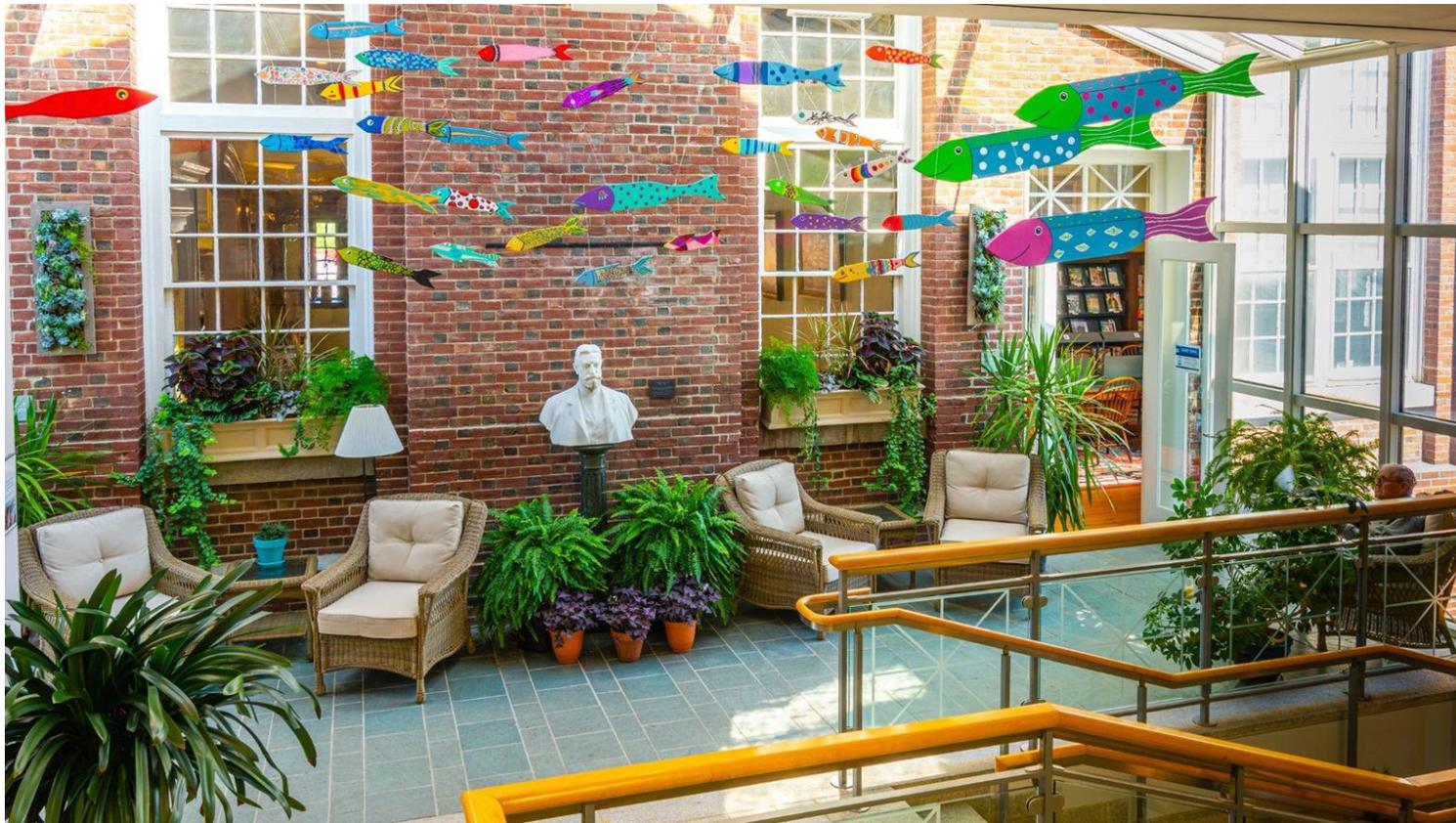JOIN US FOR SUPPER

Collect free groceries and make a unique meal with our community in a special two-part event.

On Friday afternoon at 2PM meet at Curtis Memorial Library to pick up your free cookbook and walk over with us to learn how the MCHPP Food Pantry works. Together we'll shop for food that meets our preferences and dietary needs. After making our selections we will deliver that food box back to your car at the Library. Later that evening login to a 5 PM zoom class to learn how to reduce food waste and cook a custom meal with nutrition educator Ally Messier.
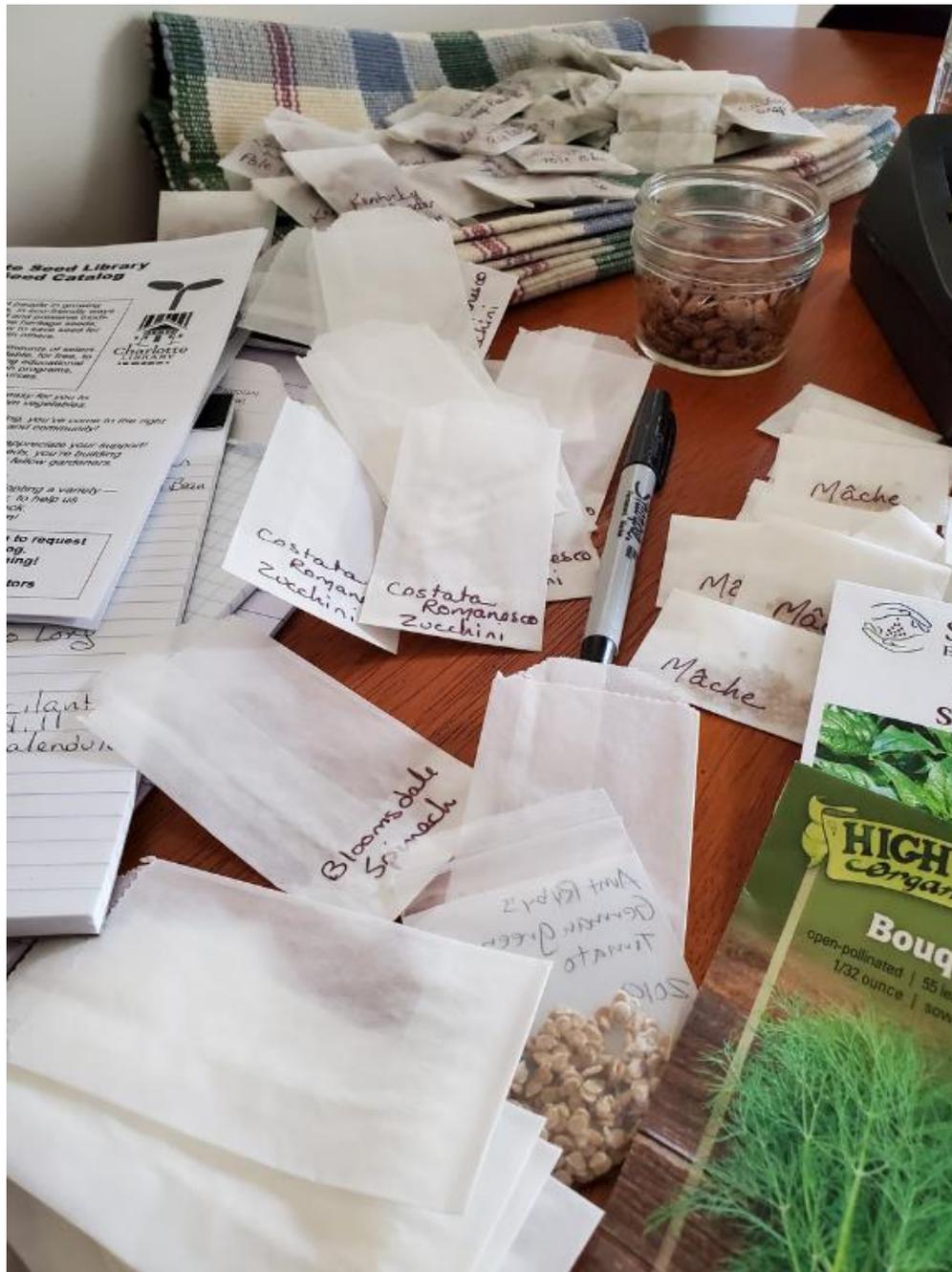
WWW.CURTISLIBRARY.COM

KEY TO LIGHTING PRIORITY

● All Hours & Cleaning Crew

● Public Hours ONLY

● Night & Dark Days – ONLY IF NEEDED

Charlotte LIBRARY
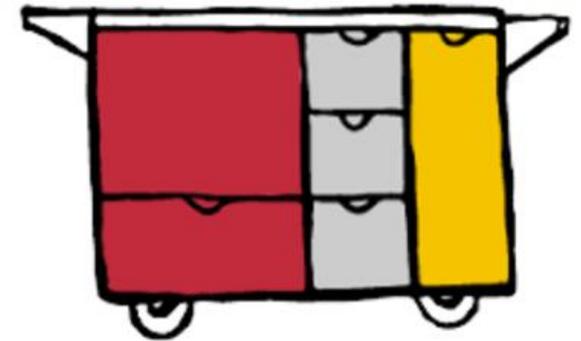
AGE WELL
CONFIDENT AGING STARTS HERE.

CHARLIE CART PROJECT

Vermont Harvest of the Month

THE LIBRARY OF LOCAL

https://www.libraryoflocal.org/

- **Tool Lending**
- **Seed Library**
- **Special Collections**
  - Food Security (Y1)
  - Climate Solutions (Y2)
- **Programming**
- **Alignment with NYS Climate Smart Communities**

MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

- Continue to operate the building as sustainably as possible.

- Continue to educate our staff and patrons about green buildings and sustainability.

- Reduce waste by 5% each year.

- Decrease business travel by 15% by 2025.

- Increase green purchasing by 5% each year.

- Seek out additional community partnerships.

- Find new ways to bring library services out to the Longwood community.

Final Report | Longwood Public Library

Expanded Sustainability Report by Longwood Staff

To access your free membership:

1. Go to the SLI web site: https://www.sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/

2. Click on *"Participate"* → *"SLI Membership"*

3. Choose the membership type and fill out the membership form.

4. When you get to "How did you hear about us?" select "Other" and enter that you are a member of a participating library association in the Notes Field to waive the membership fee.

To access the discounts on the Certification Program email: sliadmin@suffolknet.org

for information and details.

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Panelists

Cheryl Jones, Director

Mamakating Library, Wurtsboro, NY

(Certified 2023)

Linda Meglio, Assistant Director

Harborfields Public Library, Greenlawn, NY

(Certified 2023)

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org

Free

- Newsletter
- Mobile App
- Webinars
- Resources
- Facebook Group & Instagram

FREE FOR LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS (IA, MA, NJ, NY)

- Curated Resources
- Access to On Demand Training
- Vendor and Program Ideas
- American Library Association - SLI eCourse (July 2024)

Sustainable Library Certification Program

- Online Dashboard to Track Action Items
- CO_2 Calculator
- Example policies, program ideas, and more
- Assigned Mentor
- Meet Ups with others in the Program

20% - 25% Discount

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