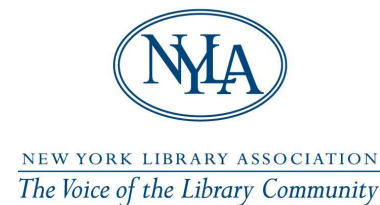




## Trustee Handbook Book Club

# Libraries for the Future: Sustainability as the Newest Core Value

June 18, 2024



# Welcome!

In the chat box please share:

1. Your Name
2. Your Library
3. How long you have served on the board

*[example: Nate Smith, My Public Library, 3 months]*

# Promotional Partners



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
*The Voice of the Library Community*



# Today



INTRODUCTION TO  
OUR TOPIC



MODERATED Q&A



QUESTIONS FROM THE  
AUDIENCE

# HANDBOOK FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF NEW YORK STATE

2023  
Edition

by Jerry Nichols & Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

*With the assistance of the*  
Public Library Systems Directors Organization of New York  
Library Trustees Association of New York State  
New York State Library  
New York Library Association

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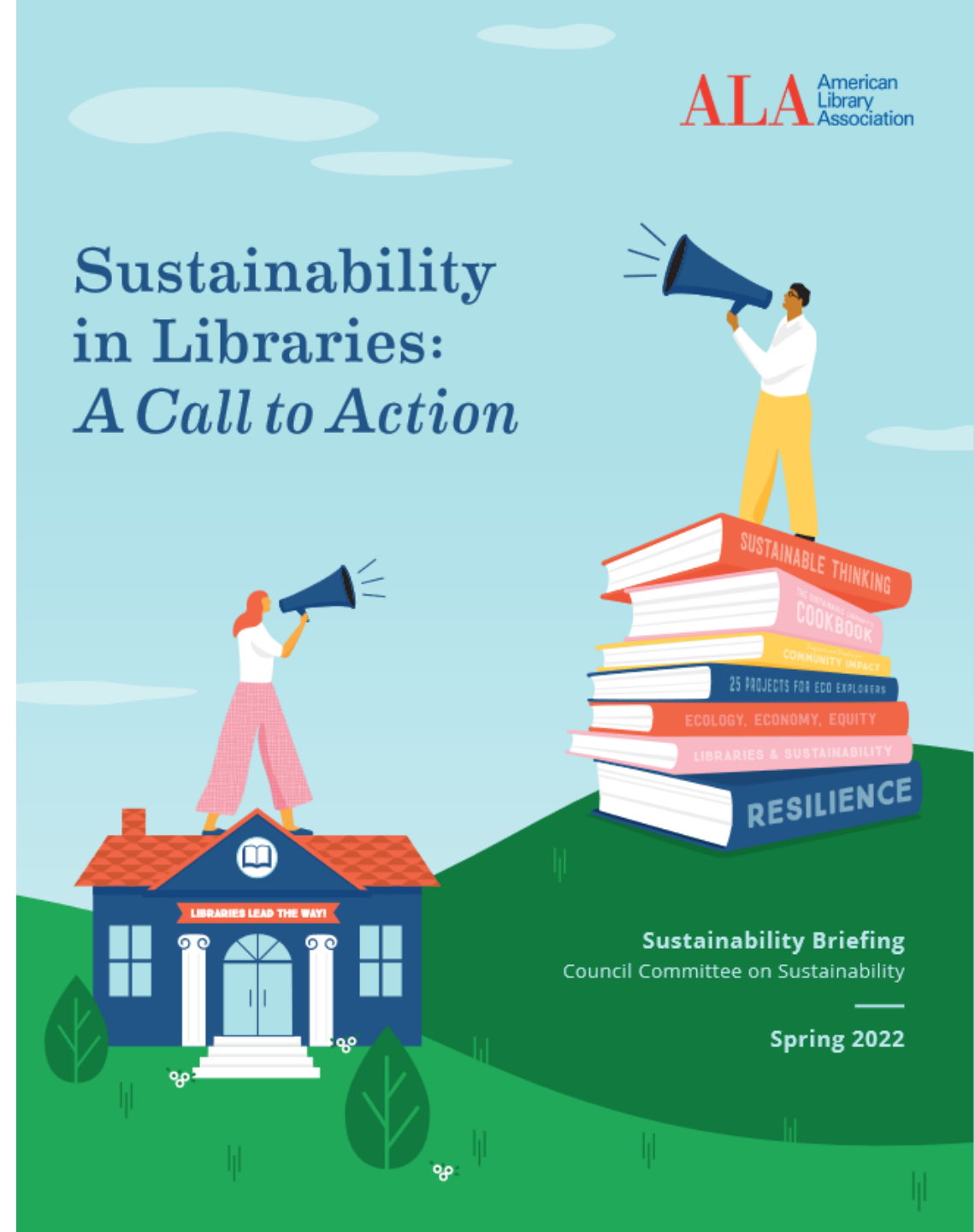




The climate crisis will  
profoundly affect the health  
of **every child alive today.**

THE LANCET

“**Climate change** is the single greatest threat to global health, a “**code red for humanity**,” and is this generation’s **grandest challenge**.”



ALA American Library Association

## Sustainability in Libraries: *A Call to Action*



Sustainability Briefing  
Council Committee on Sustainability

Spring 2022





**EVERY  
JOB  
IS A  
CLIMATE  
JOB**

**PROJECT  
DRAWDOWN.**

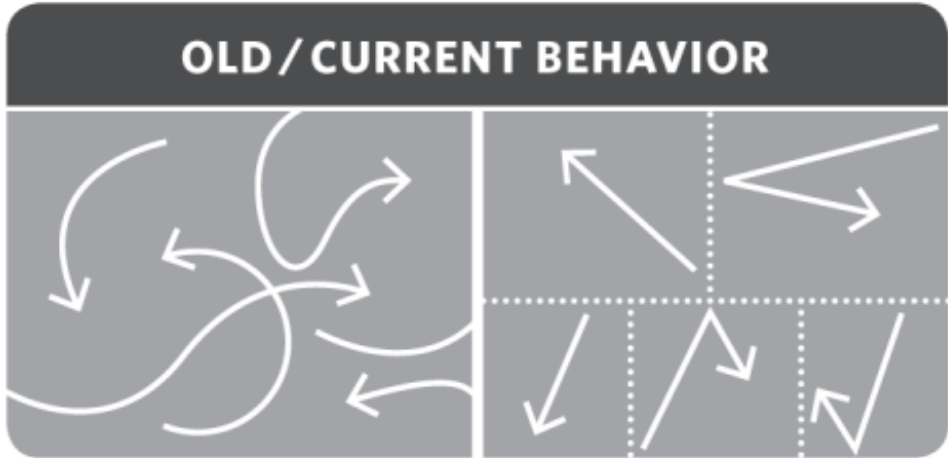
**Sustainability = Core Value**





# CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

ALA American Library Association



DISORDER & CONFUSION

ISOLATION



ALIGNMENT

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Graphic: AllHandsRaised.org



### Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible

# Intersections

with the governance role of a trustee



Trustee Handbook Book Club



# Planning

Mission & Vision

Continuity of Operations

Collective Impact

# Policies

Purchasing/Procurement

Disaster Preparedness &  
Emergency Action Plan

PR, Media &  
Crisis Communication

# Funding

Mitigation & Adaptation

Insurance

Personnel

# Facilities

Carbon Footprint

Resilience

Redundancies

# Examples

What does it look like?



Trustee Handbook Book Club

# Planning & Policies

Set the Foundation



Trustee Handbook Book Club

# Strategic Plan

July 2024 – June 2028



ENGAGE • GROW • DISCOVER  
**Lindenhurst  
Memorial Library**  
CERTIFIED AS A SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY



## Build a sense of community beyond the walls of the physical Library



- Maximize our resources through community collaborations
- Expand library usage through targeted outreach to community organizations and events
- Ensure that community members have access to information and the internet
- Support economic growth and local workforce development
- Participate in local outreach events to reach residents who may not be library users to increase materials in the Library of Things lending collection that will allow patrons to explore their community such as nature kits



CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
Corporation

# SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2021–2025



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATIONS

Goals	Strategies	Sustainable Concord Plan
<b>1 GHG REDUCTION</b>  The Library has an implementation plan for its buildings to be carbon neutral in 2030.	1.1 Planning for net zero Develop a net-zero plan for existing buildings  1.2 Sustainable building principles Develop sustainable building principles for upgrades of all buildings  1.3 Sustainable operations guide Collaborate with the Town to create a sustainable operations and maintenance guide	<b>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b>  
<b>2 NATURAL RESOURCES</b>  The Library's landscape and grounds demonstrate resilience for the community.	2.1 Inventory practices Inventory current resilient landscaping practices of the Library  2.2 Sustainable landscape design Implement sustainable landscape design infrastructure and practices that support water conservation  2.3 Biodiversity Increase native biodiversity on Library grounds	<b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b>  
<b>3 MATERIALS MANAGEMENT</b>  The Library's materials and resource system uses zero-waste principles.	3.1 Opportunities for zero waste Develop a zero-waste plan for operations  3.2 Evaluate waste stream Assess the current waste stream to better understand opportunities for waste reduction  3.3 Partnership with CPW Partner with Concord Public Works to demonstrate sustainable materials management	<b>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</b>  
<b>4 MOBILITY</b>  The Library supports sustainable transportation options.	4.1 Commuting Understand transportation options for staff and commuting GHG emissions to and from the Library  4.2 Inter-building transportation Explore low-emissions transportation for inter-building Library collaboration  4.3 Low-emissions travel partnerships Create and promote partnerships with other Town institutions for low-emissions travel, including safe biking and pedestrian options	<b>MOBILITY</b>  

## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Goals	Strategies	Sustainable Concord Plan
<b>1 LIVING LABORATORY</b>  The Library provides hands-on sustainability and climate action learning opportunities for patrons.	1.1 Building as a resource Share information about sustainable building aspects and practices in the community, using the living laboratory principles as a framework  1.2 Sustainability dashboard Create an interactive dashboard with available sustainability performance data and updates from the Town of Concord  1.3 Children learning Offer investigative opportunities for children in the Library and its gardens and grounds to learn about sustainability and scientific discovery	<b>SOCIAL RESILIENCE</b>   <small>Social Resilience Prepare businesses, residents, and agriculture for the impacts of climate change through education and climate preparedness planning.</small>
<b>2 EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES</b>  The Library is a community hub for sustainability information and climate action resources.	2.1 Share sustainability and climate change information Curate and share diverse and accessible information about climate change and sustainability action  2.2 Share sustainability data about Concord, including CFPL Share sustainability data about CFPL with the community and collaborate with the Town to share available Town data on sustainability efforts, initiatives, and progress  2.3 Library of Things and Seed Lending Library Promote the Library of Things and Seed Lending Library as sustainable resources for community members	<b>SOCIAL RESILIENCE</b>   <small>Social Resilience Prepare businesses, residents, and agriculture for the impacts of climate change through education and climate preparedness planning.</small>
<b>3 PROGRAMMING</b>  The Library offers all patrons climate change and sustainability programming with diverse platforms for engagement.	3.1 Events Host events for youth and adults on climate change, sustainability, and resilience  3.2 Local partnerships Partner with sustainability groups on climate change awareness programming and be an event space for Town partners  3.3 Dedicated space Develop a dedicated space and resources for community members to contribute information and tools on sustainable living, local climate action, and climate justice	<b>EDUCATION</b>   <small>Education Work with educators, parents, students, the School Department, and the State to bring climate education curricula into schools and student activities.</small>
<b>4 LEADERSHIP</b>  The Library demonstrates sustainability and climate action leadership with consistent improvement.	4.1 Annual assessment Create an annual assessment to share the Library's sustainable progress with the community  4.2 Share with Town partners Share best practices and learned lessons with town partners, supporting the Town's GHG reduction goals in the Sustainable Concord Plan  4.3 Support sustainable libraries Contribute to the American Library Association sustainability practices by modeling "environmentally sound, economically feasible and socially equitable" operations and programming	<b>GOVERNANCE</b>   <small>Governance Integrate sustainability goals, metrics, and evaluation criteria into Town planning, including staff and department evaluations and budgeting.</small>





## Public Policy: Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability

The Kalamazoo Public Library believes that in order to fulfill our purpose in serving the community, we must be engaged in the ongoing effort to limit the environmental impact of our operations and strive to be a leader in modeling ecologically sustainable practices. As we work to build a place for community engagement, we are committed to providing resources for our patrons to learn about sustainability through our collections and programming.

As we seek to reduce our impact on the environment, we are committed to continually evaluating our processes, and taking actions to:

- Reduce the amount of energy we consume
- Reduce the number of natural resources we consume
- Reduce the number of pollutants we contribute
- Increase the amount of recycling in our waste stream
- Make purchasing decisions that place a high value on sustainably produced products
- Promote the use of sustainable transportation



## LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

The Lancaster Public Library (LPL) has adopted the "triple bottom line" definition of sustainability: using practices that are environmentally sound, economically feasible, and socially equitable.

### *Environmentally Sound*

The LPL is committed to reducing our environmental footprint and promoting environmental stewardship within our organization. By limiting our impact on the environment, our goal is to maximize future generations' ability to live, work, and play in our shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources.

We will strive to minimize pollution and waste, conserve energy and water, protect habitat, support renewable energy resources, buy environmentally friendly products, and encourage environmentally preferable transportation.

### *Economically Feasible*

The LPL is committed to making good use of the public and local dollars invested in our organization. Our goal is to leverage funds to the maximum benefit of the community served by our library, while honoring our commitment to environmental stewardship and equity, diversity, and inclusion.

### *Socially Equitable*

The LPL will promote equity, diversity, and inclusion as a core value. The library is



## Sustainability Policy

Sachem Public Library is committed to being a good neighbor in an environmentally conscious, socially beneficial and economically responsible way. As we strive to reduce our environmental footprint and promote environmental stewardship at all levels of the organization we will continually evaluate our processes and measure our results.

### Our goals:

- Observe all applicable environmental regulations.
- Reduce our energy and water consumption by using the most energy efficient items and practices that support renewable energy sources whenever practical.
- Minimize pollutants by choosing the most environmentally-friendly products that are able to perform a comparable job at a competitive price.
- Increase our recycling efforts and minimize our waste.
- Provide resources for our patrons to learn about sustainability through our collections and programming.
- Encourage environmentally preferable transportation.
- Donate equipment no longer useful to the library to not-for-profit organizations whenever practical.
- Encourage our contractors, suppliers and anyone acting on the library's behalf to also meet our standards of environmental performance.

Employee understanding and involvement are essential to the implementation of our sustainability policy.

## Hanson Public Library Sustainability Policy

The Hanson Public Library recognizes the important role libraries play in larger community conversations about resiliency and a sustainable future. We support sustainable principles that ensure a resilient, sustainable community and library for all residents. We are committed to minimizing our environmental impact, promoting environmental stewardship at all levels, and maximizing the ability of future generations to live, work, and play in our shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources. We will strive to minimize pollution and waste, conserve energy and water, protect habitat, support renewable energy resources, purchase environmentally friendly products, and encourage environmentally preferable transportation.

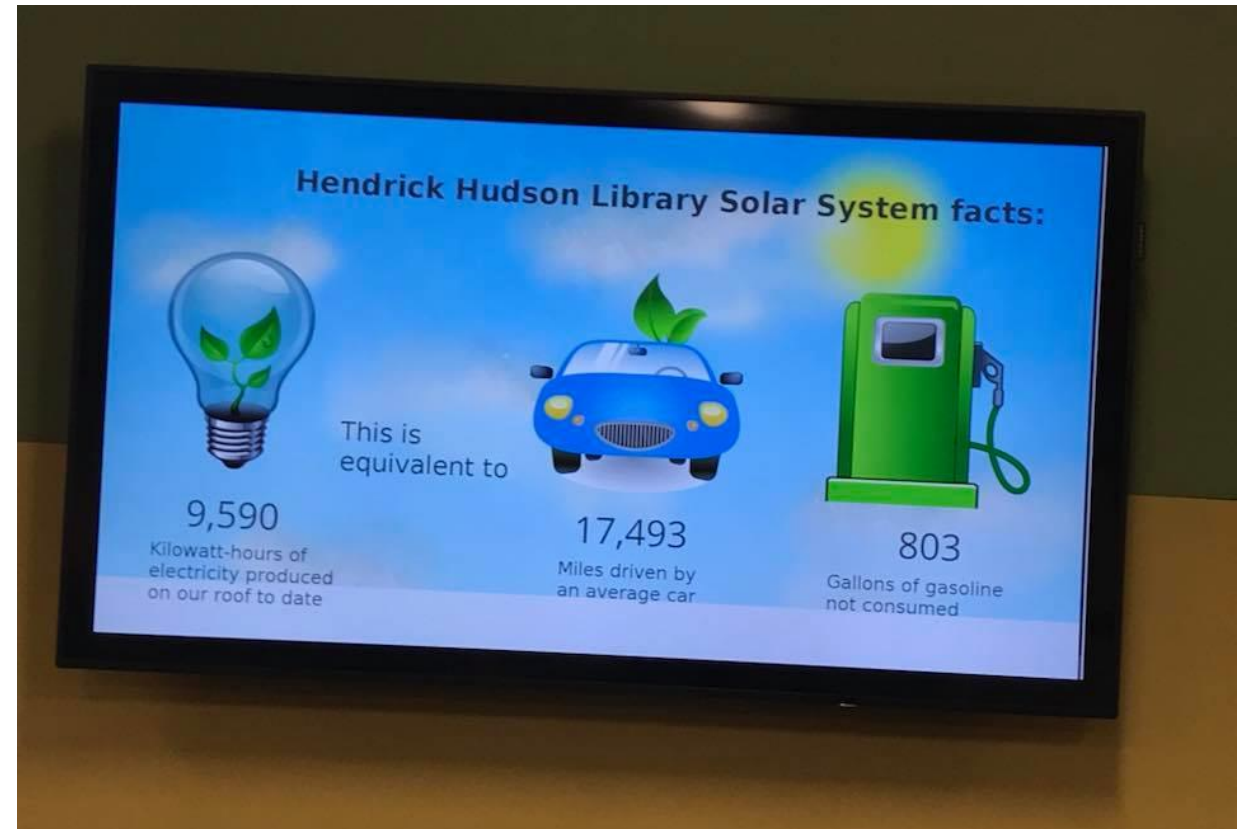
Employee understanding and involvement are essential to the implementation of this Policy. Employees will be encouraged to apply sustainable thinking with regard to collections, programs, services, technology, and partnerships and will be educated about the Library's commitment to support the American Library Association's Triple Bottom Line framework for sustainability: "To be truly sustainable, an organization or community must embody practices that are environmentally sound AND economically feasible AND socially equitable."

As we seek to reduce our impact on the environment, we will continually evaluate our processes and seek methods to measure our impact and communicate results.

Adopted by the Board of Library Trustees  
February 27, 2024

# Facility Plan Considerations

- Energy Conservation
- Transition to Renewable Energy
- Water Conservation
- Stormwater Management
- Indoor Air Quality
- Power Redundancy (e.g. solar + battery; whole building generator)
- Ecological Restoration
  - Use of native Plants
  - Removal of Invasive Species
  - Reforestation
  - Pollinator Gardens
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations
- Bicycling Infrastructure: storage, repair



# Hendrick Hudson Free Library

1<sup>st</sup> library in the country to be certified under the Sustainable Library Certification Program



**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

# San Diego County Library

1<sup>st</sup> library in California to join the Sustainable Library Certification Program



**Zero-Net Energy Facility Opened March 28, 2023**

San Diego County Library, Lakeside Branch



SAN DIEGO  
**County Library**

Create Your Own Story

- Both **Bookmobiles** have been upgraded to electric vehicles (EVs).
- In 2023, **all 33 branches** of the San Diego Public Library will have **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations** installed.



**Sustainable  
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Initiative**





- [Webinar Recording](#)
- [Slide Deck](#)
- [Climate Adaptation LibGuide](#)

*Featuring...*



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Libraries  
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**CT State Library**  
*Preserving the Past. Informing the Future.*



**Massachusetts Libraries**  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS



**NJ STATE LIBRARY**  
*An Affiliat of Thomas Edison State University*

New York State  
**Library**



Office of  
Library & Information Services  
*State of Rhode Island*



**VERMONT**  
DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES



# #1: Identify Your Region's Vulnerabilities

- Drought/Heat Wave
- Flooding
- Hail
- Hurricane
- Tornado Outbreak
- Severe Weather
- Wildfire
- Winter Storm/Cold Wave



# Disaster Preparedness

## Preparedness Programs & First Responder Appreciation

### Wacky Weather: Are You Prepared?



This program on preparedness taught children how to stay safe and prepare for power outages, hurricanes, & fires. They receive a pillowcase "go-bag" to customize, as well as a digital workbook from the Red Cross.

### Meet Your Community Helpers



Families were invited to meet local first responders and check out their vehicles, including a fire truck, police car and ambulance.

### Crafts For A Cause



This take & make program gave patrons the opportunity to create thank you cards for our police officers, firefighters and first aid squad members. We then donated them along with goodie bags made by our teens in a monthly community service program.







< [Citizen Preparedness Corps](#)

# Citizen Preparedness Training Calendar





## Department of Health

**Putnam County Cooling Centers** Call before you go to make sure the cooling center is open

Facility	Street Address	Contact Number
Brewster Public Library	79 Main St, Brewster, NY 10509	<a href="tel:845-279-6421">845-279-6421</a>
Desmond Fish Public Library	472 Route 403, Garrison, NY 10524	<a href="tel:845-424-3020">845-424-3020</a>
Julia L. Butterfield Library	10 Morris Avenue, Cold Spring, NY 10516	<a href="tel:845-265-3040">845-265-3040</a>
Kent Public Library	17 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512	<a href="tel:845-225-8585">845-225-8585</a>
Mahopac Public Library	668 Route 6, Mahopac, NY 10541	<a href="tel:845-628-2009">845-628-2009</a>
Patterson Library	1167 Route 311, Patterson, NY 12563	<a href="tel:845-878-6121">845-878-6121</a>
Putnam Valley Library	30 Oscawana Lake Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579	<a href="tel:845-528-3242">845-528-3242</a>
Reed Memorial Library	1733 Route 6, Carmel, NY 10512	<a href="tel:845-225-2439">845-225-2439</a>



**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**





# Repair Café

Saratoga Springs



✧ Sunday, April 16, 2023

✧ Skidmore College, Case Center

✧ 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Sustainable  
Saratoga

Educate.  
Advocate.  
Act.

[www.sustainablesaratoga.org](http://www.sustainablesaratoga.org)







<https://www.libraryoflocal.org/>

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



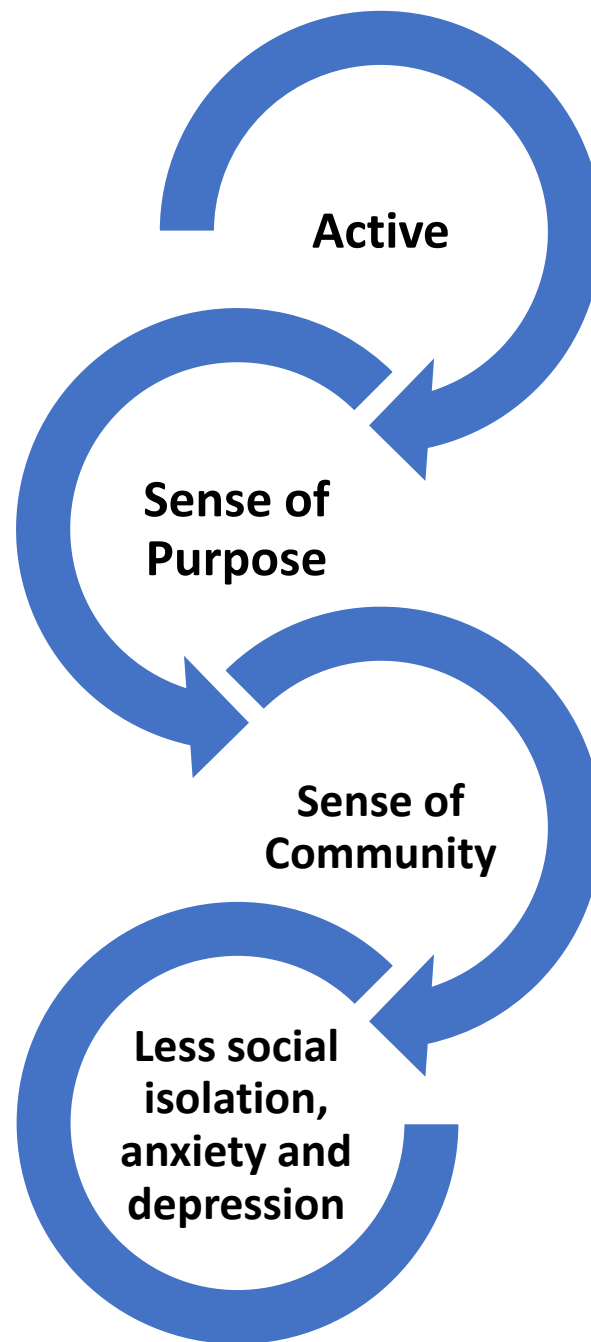
# Social Cohesion & Civic Participation

## Social Cohesion:

Respect, Empathy, and Understanding  
Strength of Relationships  
Sense of Solidarity  
Social Capital through Social Networks

## Civic Participation:

Voting  
Volunteering  
Participating in Group Activities  
Community Gardening



Mindset shifts do not happen overnight.





**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**



### Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible

# Characteristics of Sustainable Libraries

- ✓ **Strong & Authentic Institutions**
- ✓ 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**



SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE



Read Map to

SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative



# Sustainable Library Certification Program



Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative

<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

SCAN ME

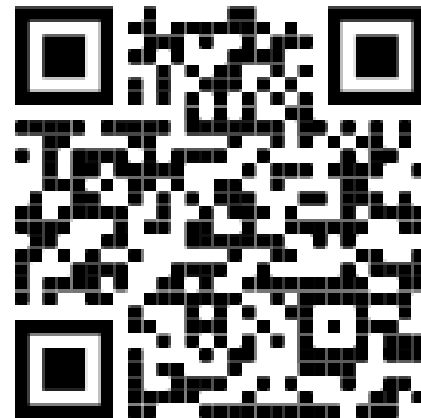


# Sustainable Library Certification Program

## 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



**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

**All members of the New York Library Association are eligible for a free one-year membership to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative and 20% off the Sustainable Library Certification Program.**

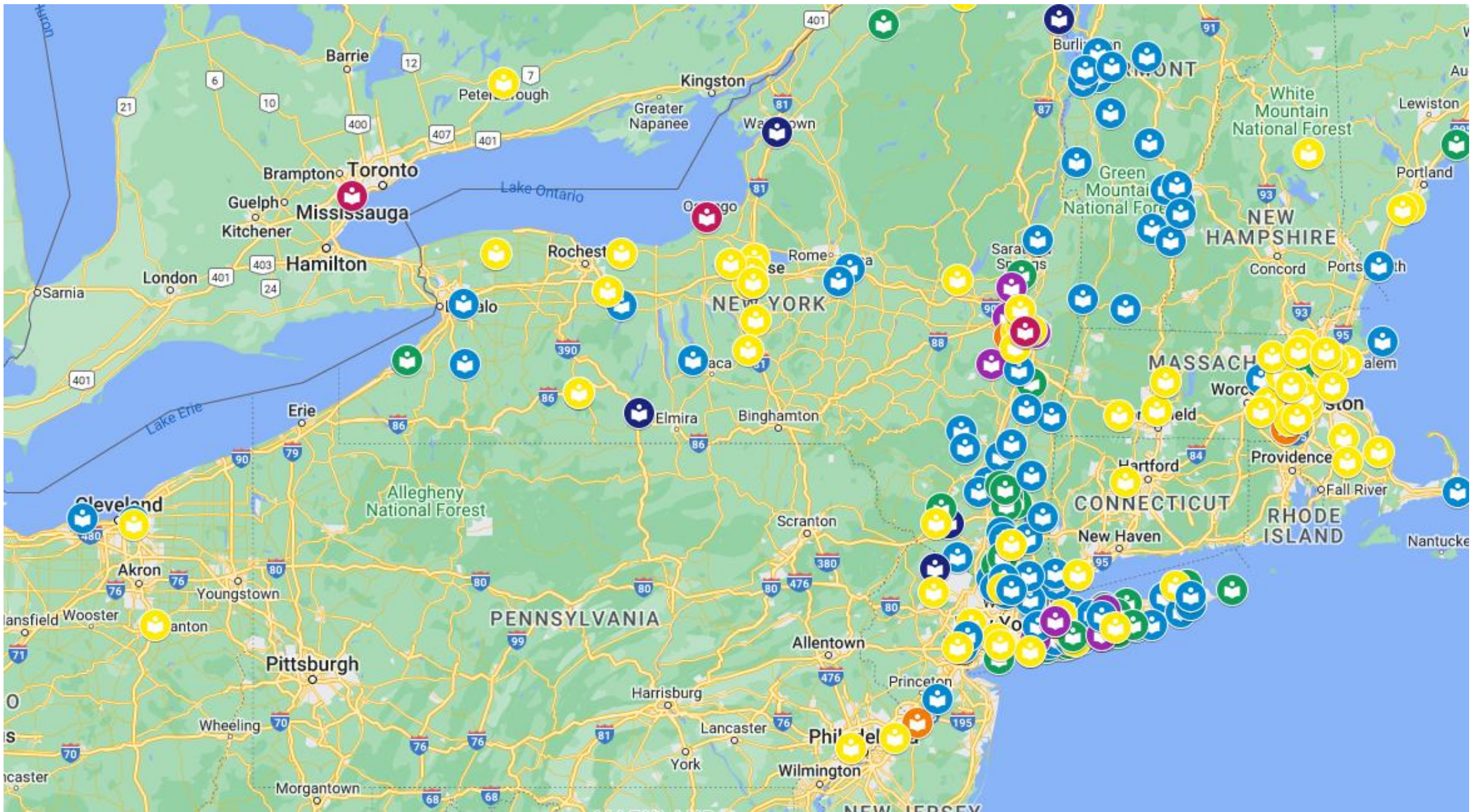


NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
*The Voice of the Library Community*



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Libraries  
Initiative**





Moderated Q & A



# Questions from the Audience





“The American public library works because of dedicated volunteers willing to serve on the board of trustees. **We thank you** for your service and your dedication to ensuring all New Yorkers powered, engaged and energized by their library. **The world is a better place for your efforts.”**

Thank You

<https://midhudson.org/TrusteeBookClub/>