

Our Grandest Challenge:

How libraries are addressing climate change

A **Call to Action** for the AMICAL Community

**THE
TIME
IS
NOW**

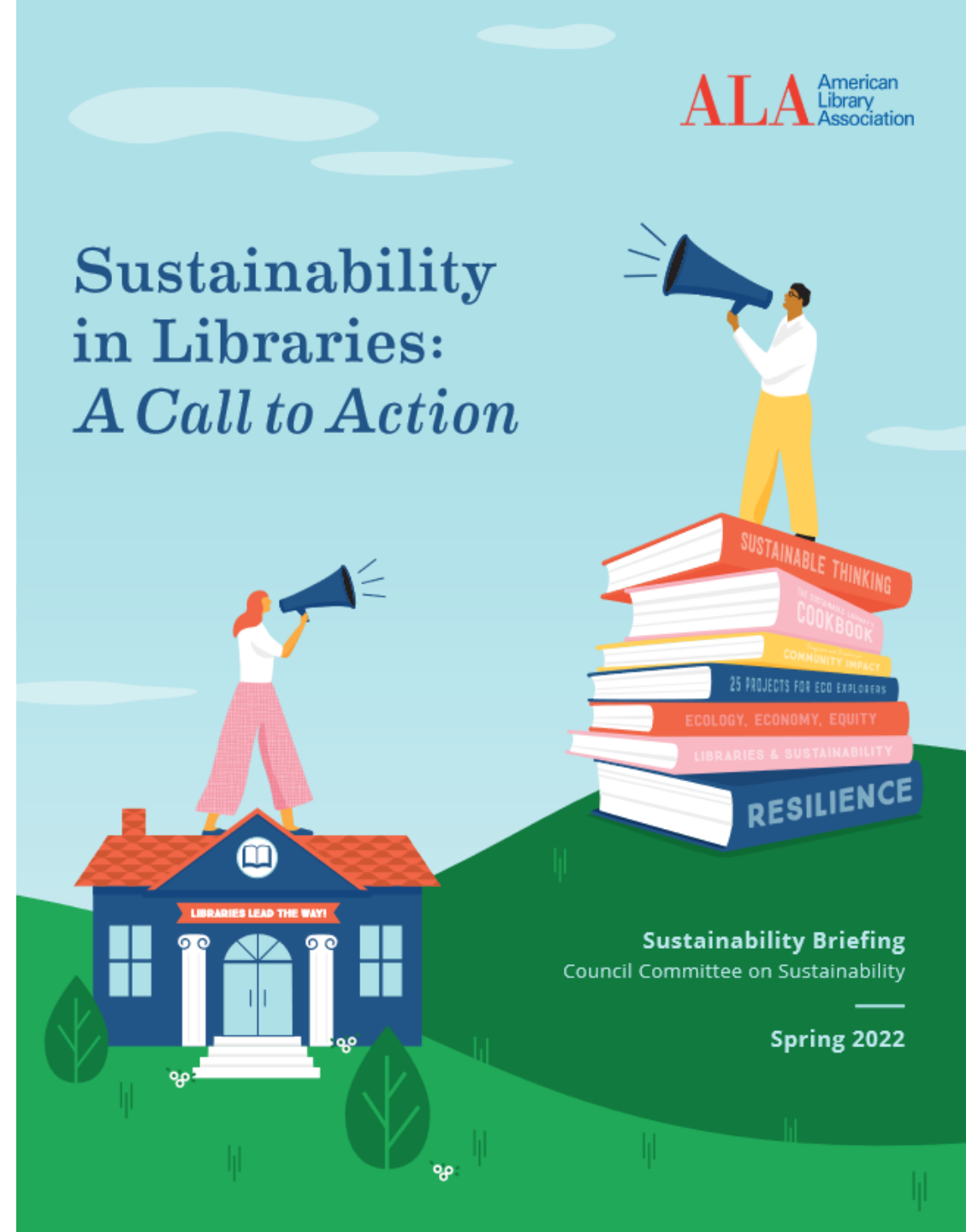


Image Source: National Centers for Environmental Information, NOAA

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

Sustainability = Core Value





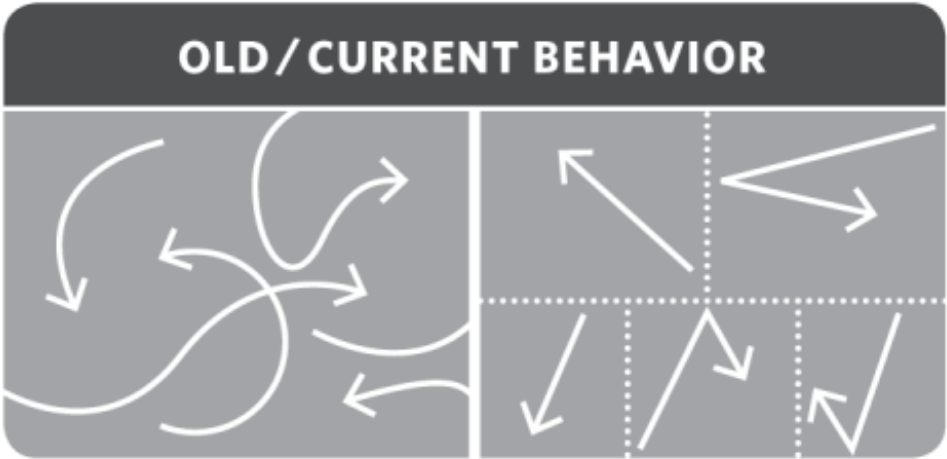
Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible



CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

ALA American Library Association



DISORDER & CONFUSION

ISOLATION



ALIGNMENT

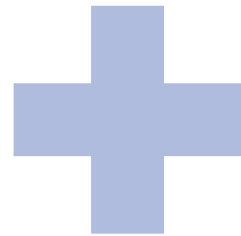
COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Graphic: AllHandsRaised.org



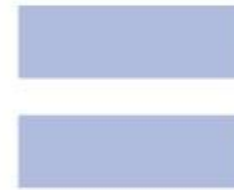
**EVERY
JOB
IS A
CLIMATE
JOB**

**PROJECT
DRAWDOWN.**



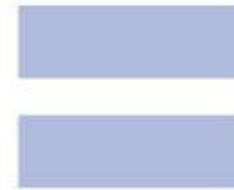
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→ Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



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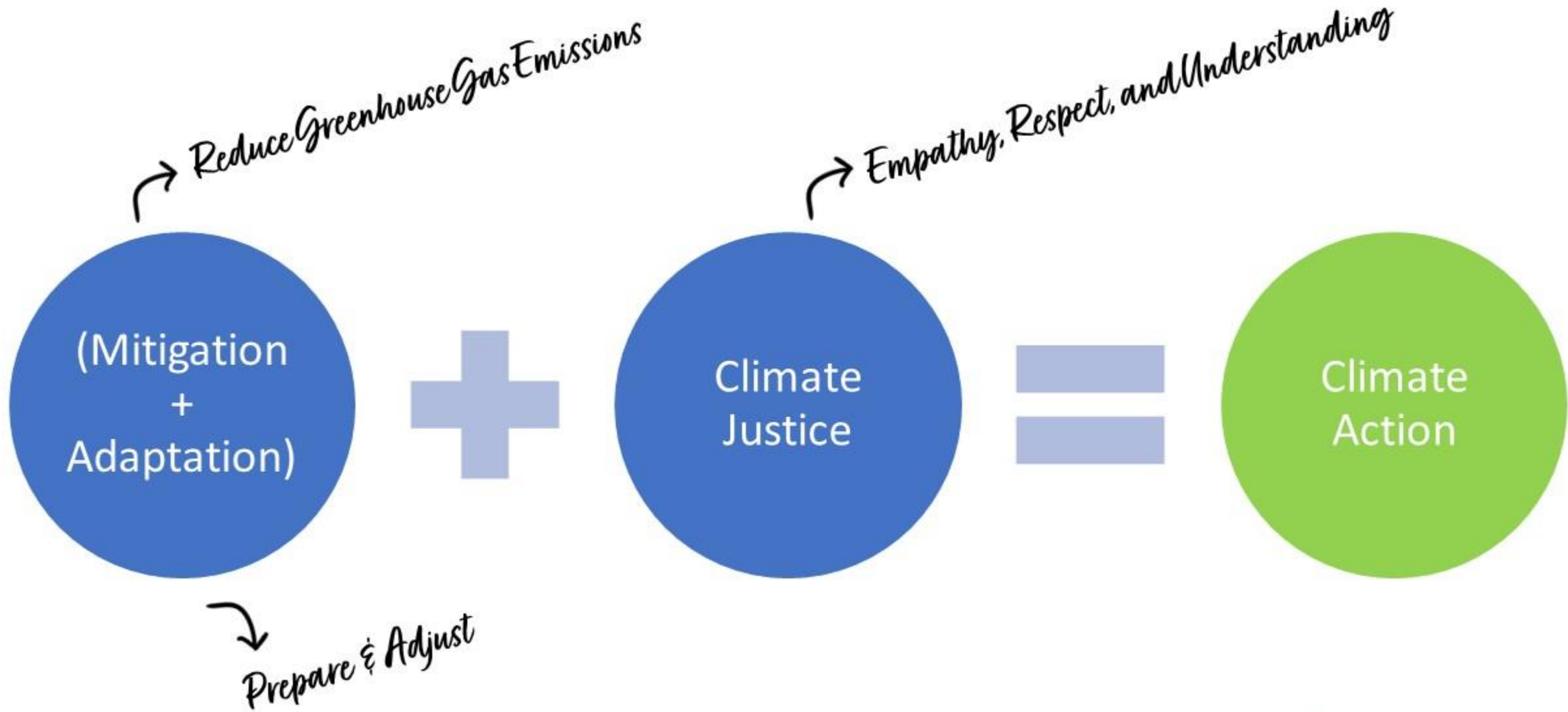
→ Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



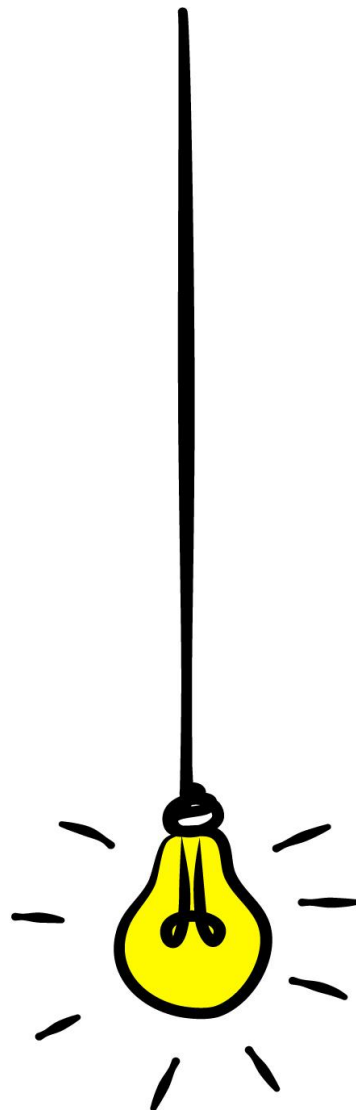
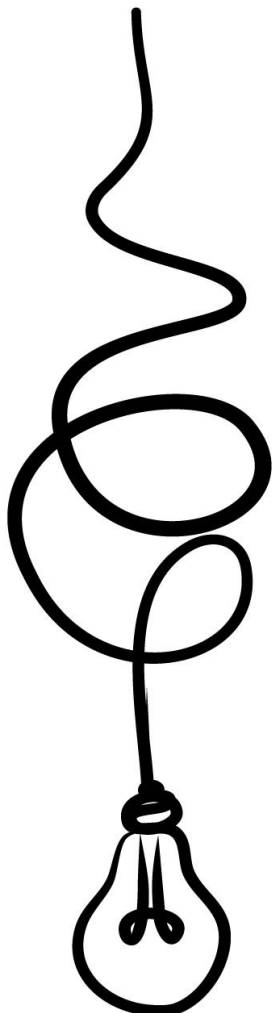
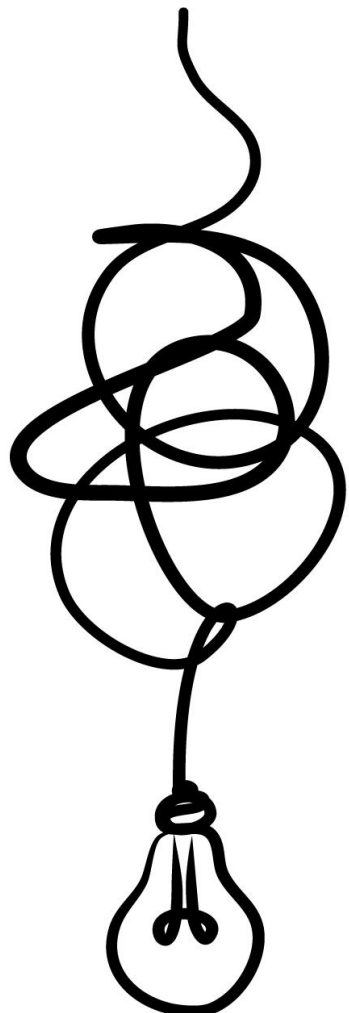
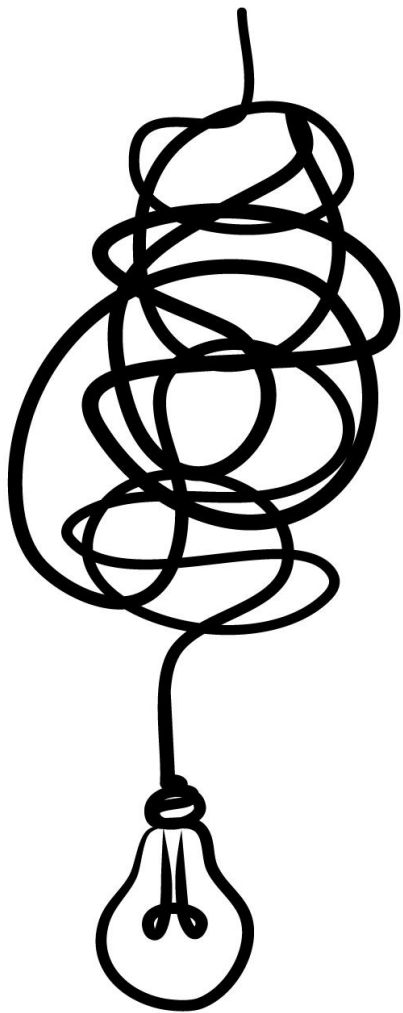
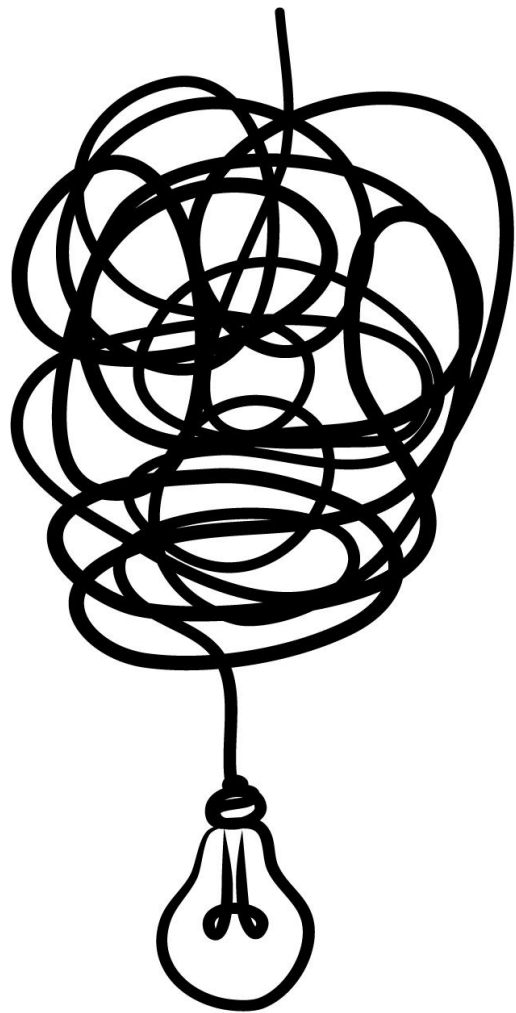
↘ Prepare & Adjust



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Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Climate Change Mitigation

Decarbonize = Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GhG) Emissions



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Results

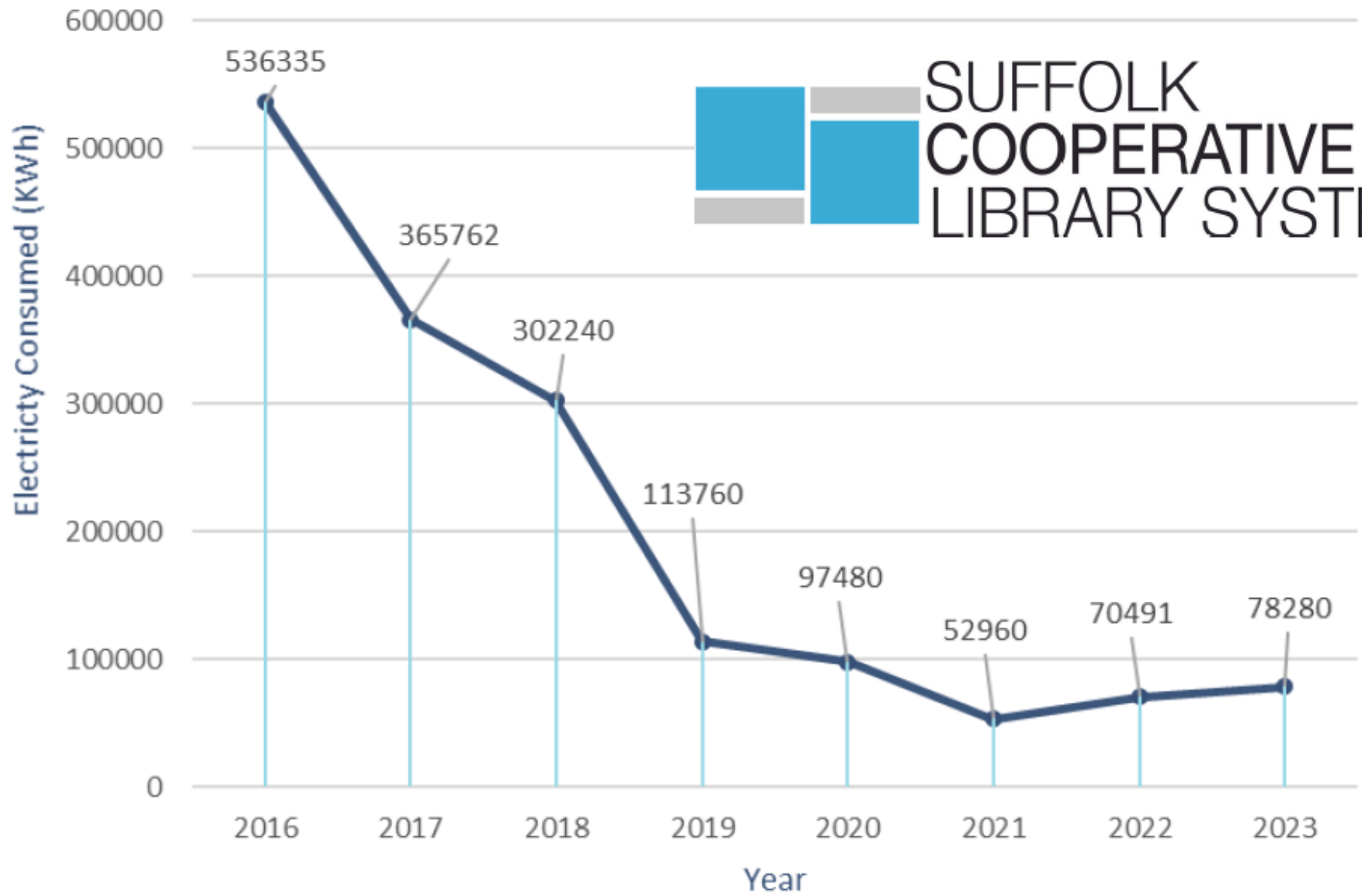
→ 2016: **\$125,000**

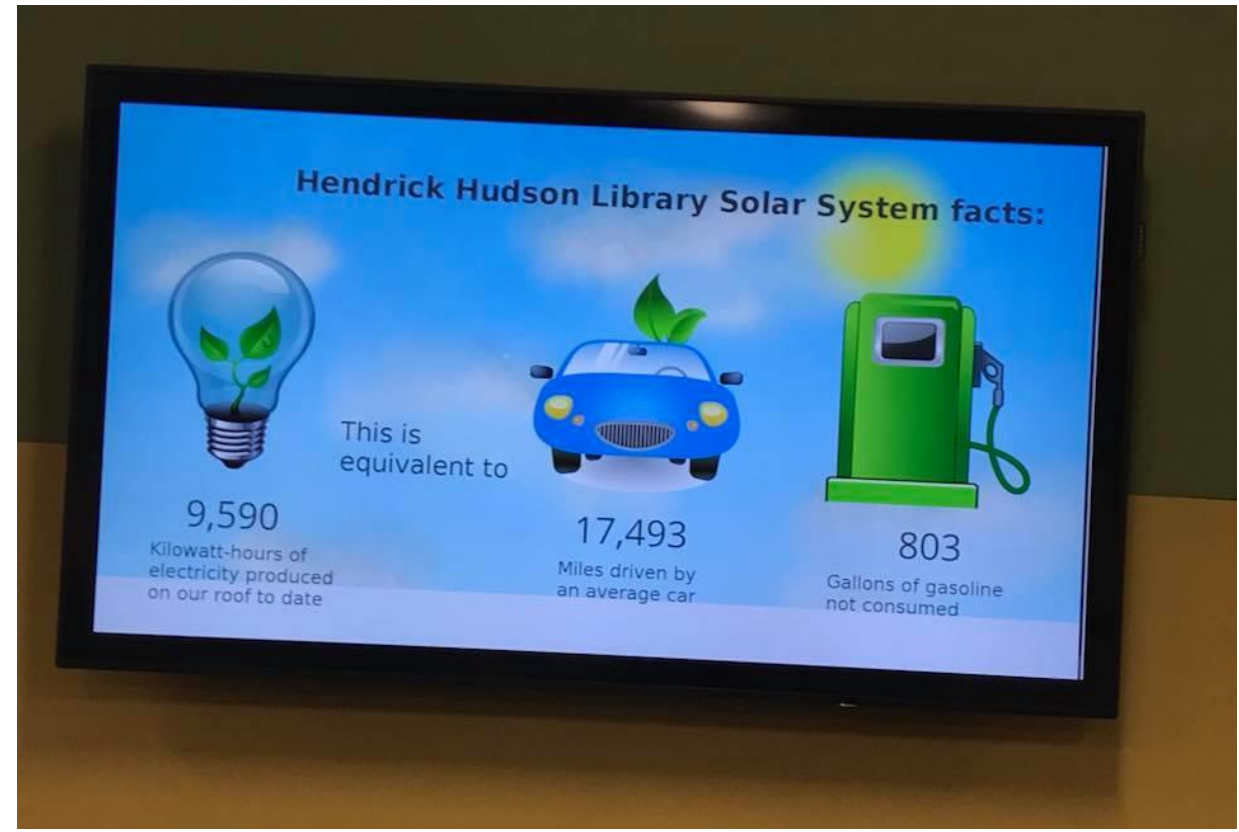
→ 2023: **\$29,000**

→ Percent change (cost): **76.8% decrease**

→ Percent change (consumption): **85.4% decrease**

SCLS Electricity Consumption over Time





Hendrick Hudson Free Library

1st library in the country to be certified under the Sustainable Library Certification Program



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San Diego County Library

1st library in California to join and complete 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.



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Energy Management

Lighting

- Outdoor 2020 LED lighting upgrades are estimated to save over **787,000 kWh annually.**
- The college motion-activated lighting is automated on-times.
- Other ways to save energy include rooftop sun-reflecting material, window film products, and/or darkening shades to reduce window heat transfer. Libraries are being used to test these initiatives.

Devices and equipment

- Includes eco modes and standby options, along with automated on times. **All new devices are ENERGYSTAR® certified.**
- **43% ENERGYSTAR®:** represents 116 of our 257 devices on the West and Winter Park Campuses.
- As a result of the device inventory project, the West campus library noted that 37 or 17% (not included in data) of our devices were up for the refresh. As a result, the library will work with IT to create a college-wide library refresh workflow.



Concord Free Library





1st library in Massachusetts to complete the Sustainable Library Certification Program

Sustainability Plan



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BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATIONS

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



Clarkson

University Libraries



Clarkson

University Libraries

Main Campus Front Desk
(315) 268-2292

Ask a Librarian
askalibrarian@clarkson.edu

Off-Campus Login

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Almost Everything Articles Books Journals

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[Learn more about Discovery Search](#)

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Databases

Research Guides





Lindenhurst Memorial Library

April 22 · 🌐



The Board of Trustees, as part of its commitment to sustainable practices, is proud to enter into a pilot program with Suffolk County to share our EV chargers as part of a county wide charging network.

As part of the larger infrastructure work being done on the building, which includes a 73KW solar panel array on the roof, and solar parking lot lights, the EV chargers allow the public to stop at a public library to charge their car while also using library services and programs. Shared services is the backbone of public library service, and the Lindenhurst Memorial Library is excited to be at the forefront of this new initiative.



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Climate Change Adaptation

Building Community Resilience



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#1: Identify Your Region's Vulnerabilities

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



Adaptation = Two Fronts

Disaster Preparedness

- Planning:
 - Disaster Preparedness
 - Continuity of Operations
 - Incident Action Plan
- Facility Redundancies
 - Power
 - Water
- Staff Preparedness

Community Resilience

- Acute
 - Citizen Preparedness
 - Emergency Communication Networks
 - Transportation
 - Food Security
- Long-Term
 - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access & CLIMATE JUSTICE

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.





GROWING LITERACY

WINTER GARDEN WORKSHOPS

Sundays
3:00-4:30pm

Bring your curiosity, questions, and join us!

All gardening abilities welcome.

JAN 22

Let's Diversify! Minimizing Lawn and Maximizing Habitat with Gary Fish - via zoom

JAN 29

Home-based (backyard) Aerobic Composting with Mark King - via zoom

FEB 5

Sowing Native Seeds for the Community with Ellen Maling - at Curtis Memorial Library

MAR 5

Scalable No-Till Gardening: Prioritizing Soil Health for Better Yields with Theda Lyden & Carrie Asselin - at Growing to Give

MAR 12

Seed Starting and Greenhouse Tour at Whatley Farm with Ben Whatley - at Whatley Farm

MAR 19

Planting and Growing by the Lunar Calendar: The Biodynamic Approach to Growing Our Food with Barbara Shinn - via zoom



Thanks to our sponsor!

Camden
NATIONAL BANK



To learn more and register:
www.btlt.org/growing-literacy-2023/





Support the Library Farm by purchasing a 5 oz hot sauce made with locally grown serrano peppers. Visit our **Cicero Branch** to pick up a bottle for only \$10; all proceeds go directly to the Library Farm.



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





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

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





https://www.climatecrew.org/resilience_hubs

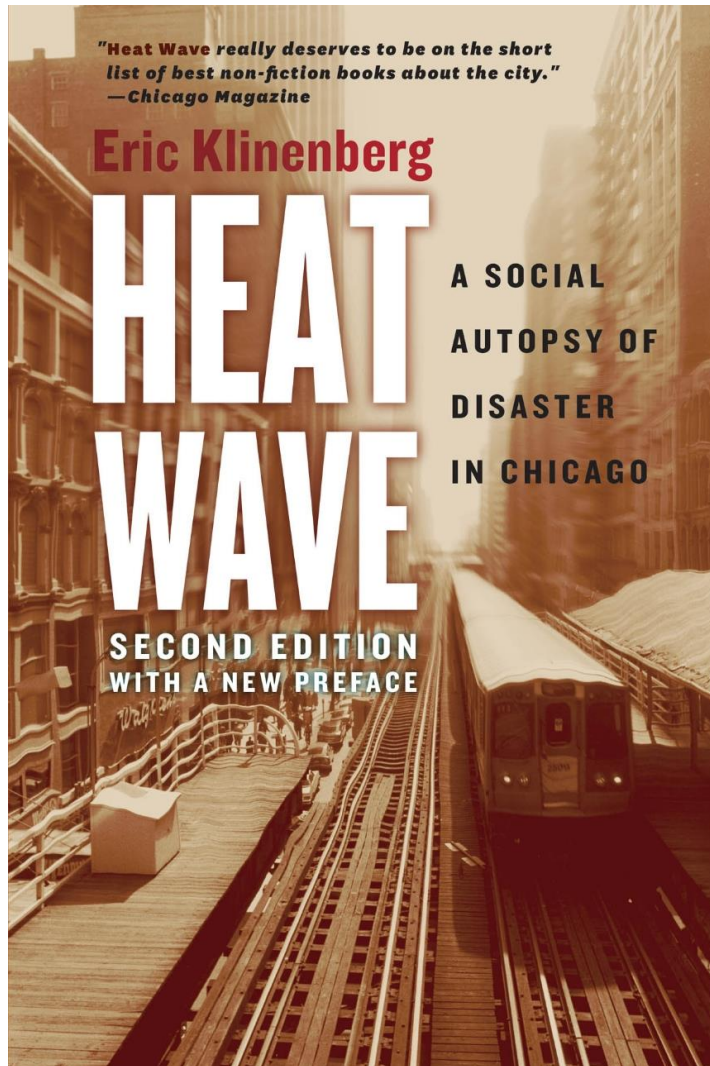
- Help **educate** residents about extreme weather preparedness and other impacts of climate change
- Help residents **respond** to extreme weather events through material assistance (e.g. heating/cooling centers)

Climate Justice

Climate Justice = Social + Economic + Environmental Justice



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“A natural disaster is always a human-made disaster because **social conditions determine who is most vulnerable** and because **the meaning of any disaster is culturally negotiated.**”

-Ann E. Larabee in her review of *Heat Wave*

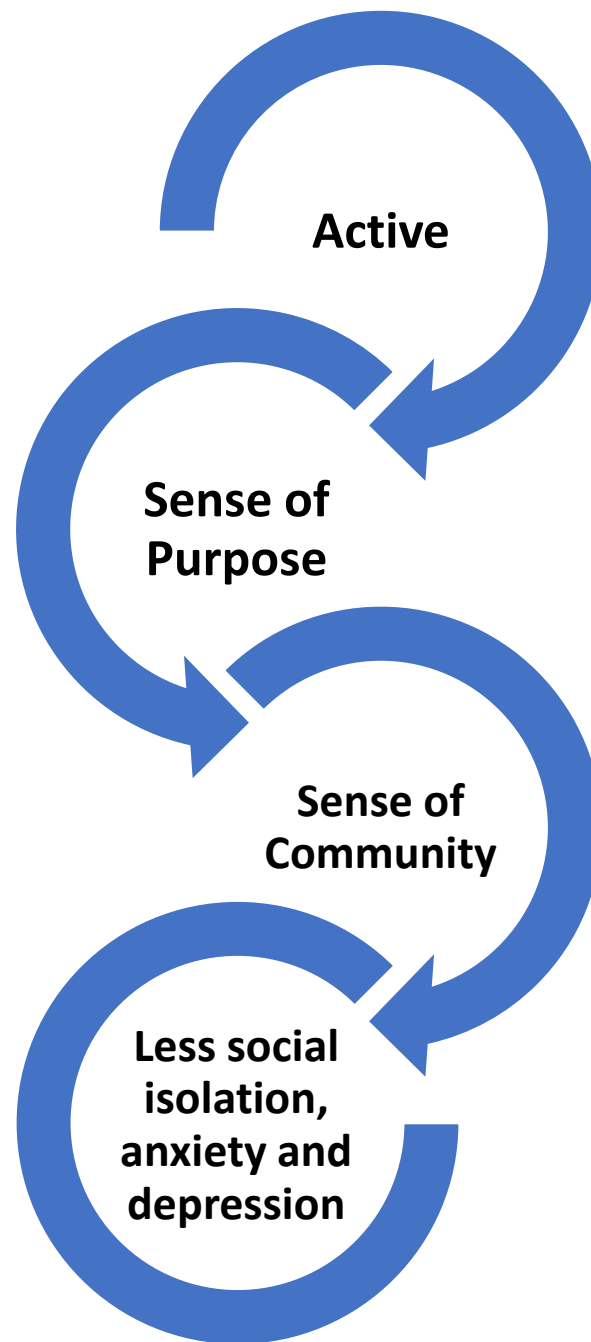
Social Cohesion & Civic Participation

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



Social Infrastructure

The programs (such as volunteer organizations, sports groups, religious groups, and member associations), policies (like public transportation, housing, and education), and physical elements of a community (such as **libraries**, parks, green spaces, and playgrounds) that support the development of social connection.

Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation



2023

The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community



VALENCIA COLLEGE

- Librarians have saved students over \$200,000 with open and affordable educational resources (OAER)
- The libraries loan 4G hotspots for eligible students with high need
- The library created an interactive slide show to feature books, articles, videos, and tips related to sustainability
- Libraries host and advertise sustainability events on campus and online
- Library-branded social media campaign to share sustainability resources and tips

Education & Influence



Mindset shifts do not happen overnight.



START WHERE YOU ARE.

USE WHAT YOU HAVE.

DO WHAT YOU CAN.

-ARTHUR ASHE

and George Washington Carver, Squire Bill Widener, and Teddy Roosevelt...



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Sustainable Libraries

- ✓ **Strong & Authentic Institutions** that Live their Values Out Loud
- ✓ Catalyst for **Civic Participation & Social Cohesion** in Communities
- ✓ Working on **Climate Mitigation** (reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG))
- ✓ Active Participants in **Climate Adaptation** (strengthening community resilience)



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SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE



Read Map to

SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainable
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Sustainable Library Certification Program



Sustainable
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<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

SCAN ME

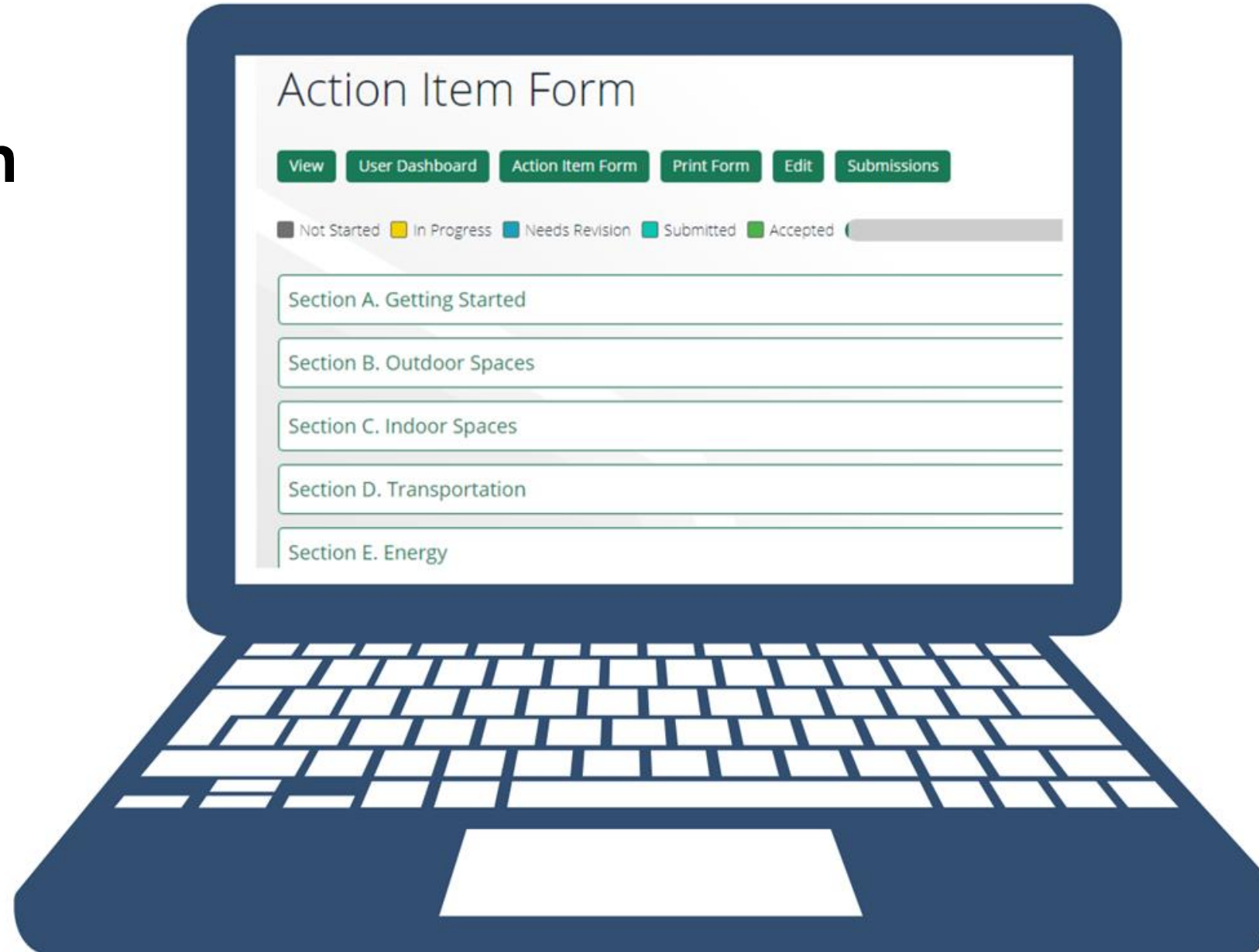


Sustainable Library Certification Program

- Step-by-Step Format
- Guidance from a Mentor
- Built-in Resources
- Community of Practice



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Sustainable Library Certification Program

Public & Academic Libraries

- Organizational Commitment
- Energy, Water, and Waste Management
- Materials and Recycling
- Partnerships
- Community Involvement
- Social Equity
- Community Resiliency
- Financial Sustainability
- Collections

School Librarians

*Available nationally
in 2024!*

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



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Sustainable Libraries Initiative

<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org>



Free

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

SLI Members

- Curated Resources
- Access to On Demand Training
- CO₂ Calculator
- Vendor and Program Ideas
- American Library Association - SLI eCourse

Sustainable Library Certification Program

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



National Climate Action Strategy



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Want to make the world suck less?



Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MLS, LEED AP

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Executive Director, **Mid-Hudson Library System** (NY)

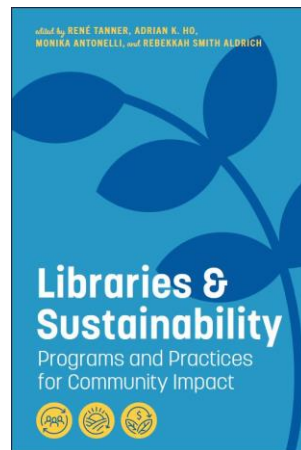
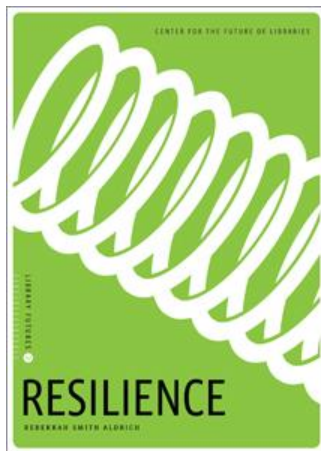
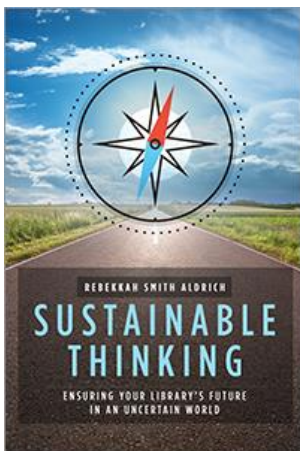
Co-Founder & Board President, **Sustainable Libraries Initiative**

Chair, ALA-SLI National Climate Action Strategy Working Group

Member, Center for the Future of Libraries Advisory Group, **American Library Association**

Sustainability Columnist, **Library Journal**

Author:



Thank You