

Sustainable Libraries Initiative



**Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative**

Matthew Bollerman | March 24, 2023



**Sustainable
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Initiative**

Our Mission

Empowering library leaders to advance environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible practices to intentionally address climate change and co-create thriving communities.



Sustainability = Core Value





Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible

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)



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How to create systemic change?

SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE



Read Map to

SUSTAINABILITY



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Sustainable Library Certification Program

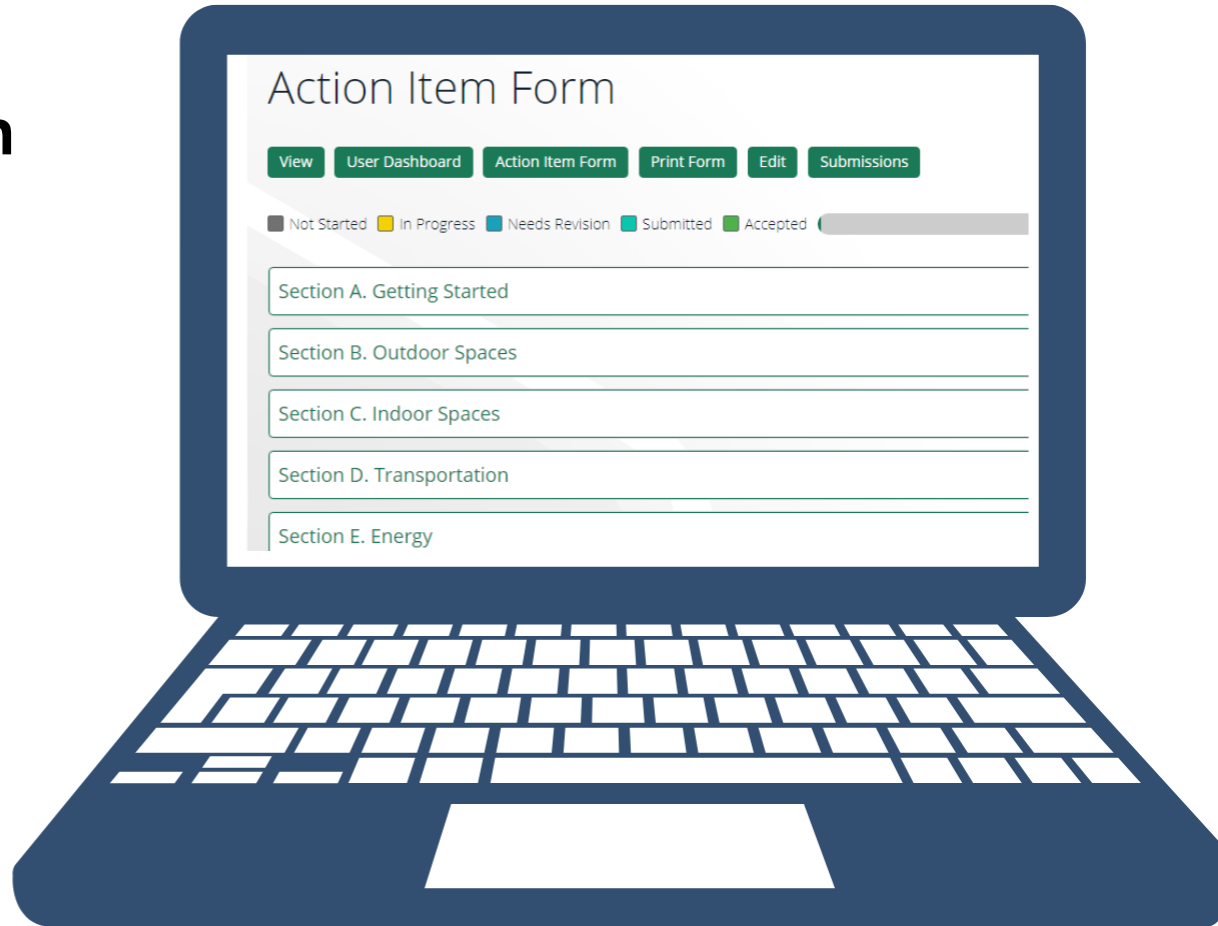


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<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

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

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



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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)**

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



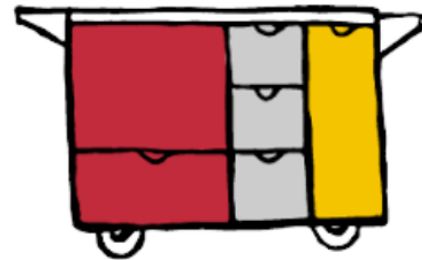
It's a journey, not a destination.



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CHARLIE CART PROJECT



Vermont Harvest
of the Month



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Free

- Newsletter
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Become a Member

- Curated Resources
- Access to On Demand Training
- Vendor List
- 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

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

Thank You