

Sustainability SIG Meeting Notes: 8/12/26

Attendees: Elisa Coghlan, Jessica Schoonover, Julia Lee, Emily (WVLS)

Guest Presentation: Sophia LoCascio

SLI help libraries through climate change mitigation projects. Majority of people believe in climate change - difference lies in if they prioritize and what work needs to be done. SLI helps libraries communicate why this work is important and why we should stay ahead of climate change curve as much as possible.

ALL Wisconsin libraries have 12-month access to Sustainable Libraries Initiative resources through partnership with WLA.

sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org

Do not need to be involved in certification program to participate in tools/resources.

- Monthly meet-up topics - free to all and open to anyone.
- Webinars (including introductory webinars)

Bulk of resources on the Resources page:

- For Everyone (free to all)
- For Members (for members only - all Wisconsin libraries can sign-up for membership FREE thanks to partnership with WLA)

Highlights:

- Certification Presentations (examples of libraries that completed program and shared work that they've done)
- National Climate Action Strategies for Libraries (guide for climate mitigation action and climate justice work in your library)
- Climate Action Lab
- On Demand Webinars
- Policy Resources
- Program Idea Bank (program suggestions from other members from the SLI community)
- Support

- Vendor List (vendors suggested by libraries)

Public Library Certification:

- No time limit on completion: entirely self-paced and flexible
- Built by librarians for librarians
- 15 sections
- Builds sustainability into the library structure - saves money over time and sets a great example for your community/develops resiliency in your community.
- Each section has a number of required action items.
- Can include plans to incorporate sustainable improvements that will be made in the future (all do not have to be done immediately, i.e., “We will be adding a budget line for LED light conversion in 2028”).
- Each library paired with a mentor who has been through the certification process.
- Can connect with community of libraries who can help answer questions.
- No specific order you have to complete except “Getting Started” & “Final Presentation”

Will be creating a “Getting Buy-In” resource page to help reluctant administration to get on board.

It takes just one person to get started whether it is gathering data, looking at utility bills, bringing this to your administration’s attention, and get the conversation started.

Solar/Clean Energy Guide: broad, overarching guide on what to think about, resources available, where to look for data, etc. (NOT recommending certain types of solar panels/companies over another)

Next Meeting: October 14 @ 2:00