



Sustainable Library Initiative

Presentation to Library Board



Why This Matters

Structured Framework

SLI offers a **structured framework** for environmental stewardship, social equity, and economic resilience while aligning with the library's mission and the City of Northfield's sustainability goals.

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

Core Principles and Frameworks Explained

Triple Bottom Line

The SLI framework emphasizes a **Triple Bottom Line** approach, balancing environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic viability to ensure libraries can meet community needs effectively.

Organizational Change

SLI encourages libraries to implement **organizational change**, enhancing governance, policies, and operations while promoting community engagement through inclusive programming and accessible collections for all.

Community Engagement

Engaging the community is essential; SLI prioritizes **collaborative efforts** that foster partnerships, support diverse voices, and create programs that resonate with the unique needs of library users.

Certification Categories

Sustainable Libraries Initiative

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Sections:

- Section A. Getting Started
- Section B. Outdoor Spaces
- Section C. Indoor Spaces
- Section D. Transportation
- Section E. Energy
- Section F. Water
- Section G. Materials
- Section H. Collective Impact
- Section I. Social Cohesion
- Section J. Resilience Planning
- Section K. Financial Sustainability
- Section L. Collections
- Section M. Final Presentation

Section A. Getting Started ▼

Percent Complete: 10%

Sometimes getting started is the hardest part of a project. This section is designed to be a step-by-step introduction into the Sustainable Library Certification Process. It is intended to follow the steps in Required Actions of this section in the order in which they appear. After completing the Required Action Items, you may move on to the Recommended Action Items and complete them in whatever order suites your team.

Facilities & Operations

Sustainable Practices for Library Enhancement

Energy Efficiency

Implementing energy efficiency improvements can significantly reduce operational costs while contributing to the library's **sustainability goals** and minimizing its overall environmental impact within the community.

Waste Reduction

By focusing on waste reduction and sustainable purchasing, the library can lead by example, promoting responsible practices that foster **environmental stewardship** and engage patrons in meaningful discussions about sustainability.

Community Programs and Services



Repair Workshops

Skill-sharing programs that promote sustainability and collaboration



Climate Education

Initiatives focused on resilience and environmental awareness



Organizational Practices

Integration

Integrating sustainability into **strategic planning** ensures that all library operations reflect environmental values and commitments, aligning daily practices with broader sustainability goals.

Equity

Reviewing policies for accessibility

Training

Providing staff with sustainability training

Benefits to the Library

Strengthening Internal Alignment and Resilience

Strategic Alignment

Achieving SLI certification will **enhance the library's strategic alignment** with sustainability and equity goals, ensuring that all initiatives resonate with the community's values and expectations.

Organizational Resilience

Certification strengthens the library's **organizational resilience** against climate and economic disruptions, preparing it to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing environment while maintaining high service standards.

Community Benefits

Building resilience and inclusivity together

Resilient Infrastructure

Certification will lead to **more resilient public infrastructure**, ensuring that community facilities can withstand climate impacts while continuing to serve residents effectively during emergencies and disruptions.

Trusted Resources

Expanded access to **trusted information and resources** will empower community members, offering vital support in navigating challenges and fostering informed decision-making during crises and everyday needs.

Social Cohesion

Stronger **social connections and community cohesion** will be cultivated through collaborative programs and services, enhancing relationships among residents and promoting a sense of belonging and shared purpose.

Role of the Board

Supporting Sustainable Practices and Goals

Board's Contribution

The Library Board plays a vital role in promoting sustainability as an **organizational value**, ensuring regular updates on certification progress, and fostering partnerships across various sectors for enhanced community impact.

Timeline and Next Steps

Team Formation

Assessment

Action Planning

Documentation



Assemble the Sustainability Team to guide the certification process.

Conduct a baseline assessment of current sustainability practices at the library.

Prioritize action items and identify quick wins for initial implementation.

Gather documentation and prepare materials for the final certification presentation.