

Today's Presenter



Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MLS, LEED AP
Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System (NY),
Co-founder/Current President, Sustainable Libraries
Initiative, and Author

Sustainable Libraries: Resources and Webinars for Climate Action



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oc.lc/sustainable-libraries

Sustainability 101

Sustainable Libraries: Resources and Webinars for Climate Action

Presented by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich







Image Source: National Centers for Environmental Information, NOAA

“Heat stress linked to the climate crisis will cause
38,000 extra deaths a year worldwide
between 2030 and 2050. “



1.2 billion

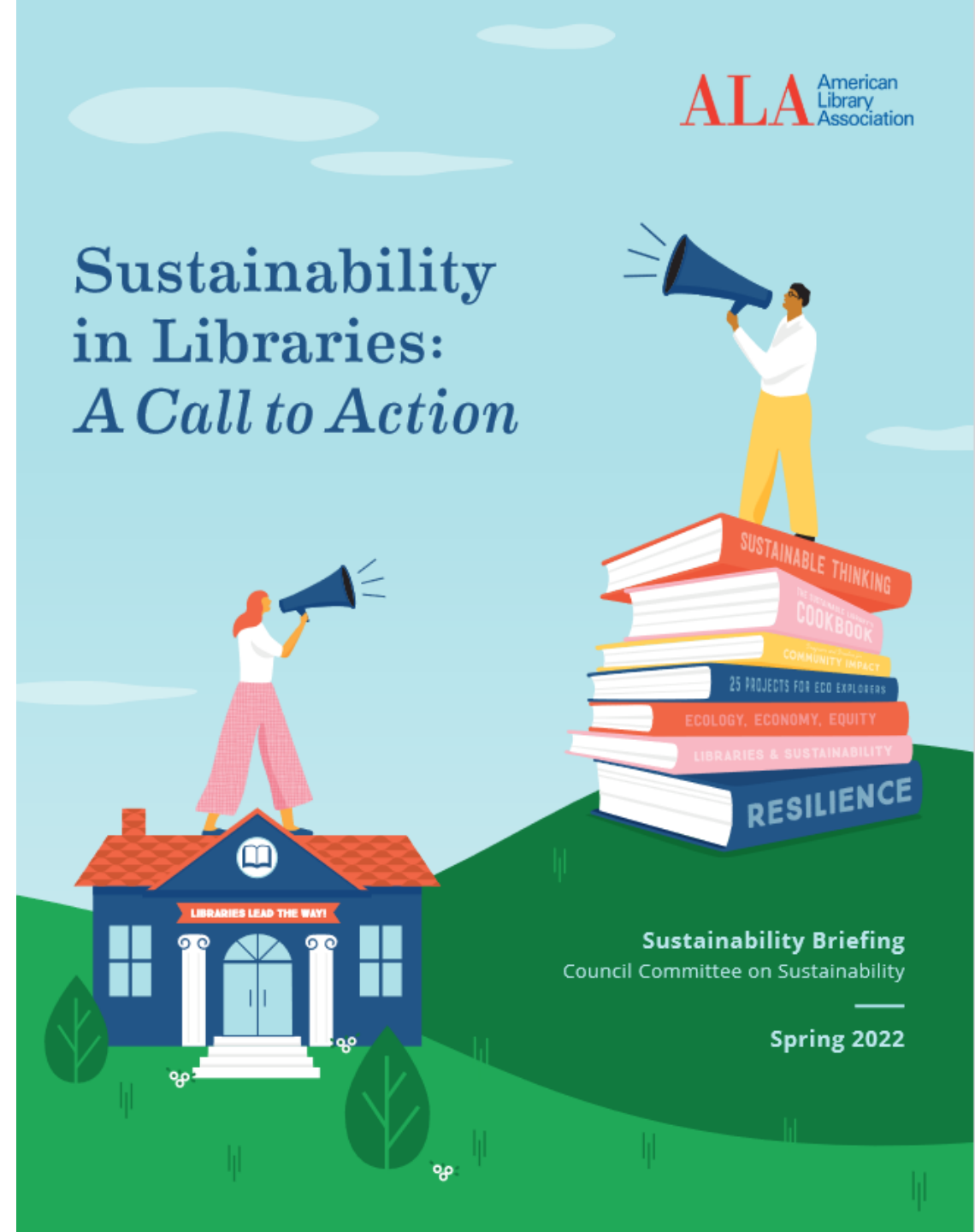
Predicted number of **climate refugees** by 2050



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**.”



Sustainability in Libraries: *A Call to Action*



Sustainability Briefing
Council Committee on Sustainability
Spring 2022



**EVERY
JOB
IS A
CLIMATE
JOB**

**PROJECT
DRAWDOWN.**



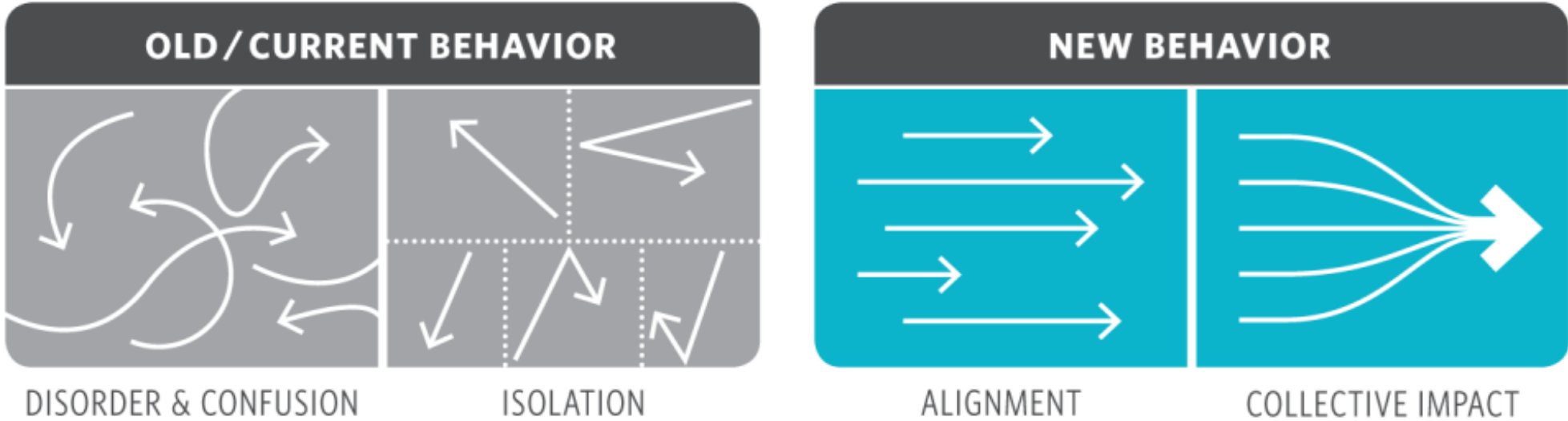
Sustainability = Core Value





CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

ALA American Library Association



Graphic: AllHandsRaised.org



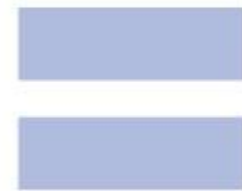
Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible

Libraries

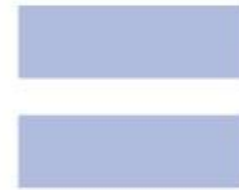
as Sustainability Leaders

We  Local



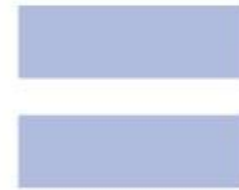
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→ Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



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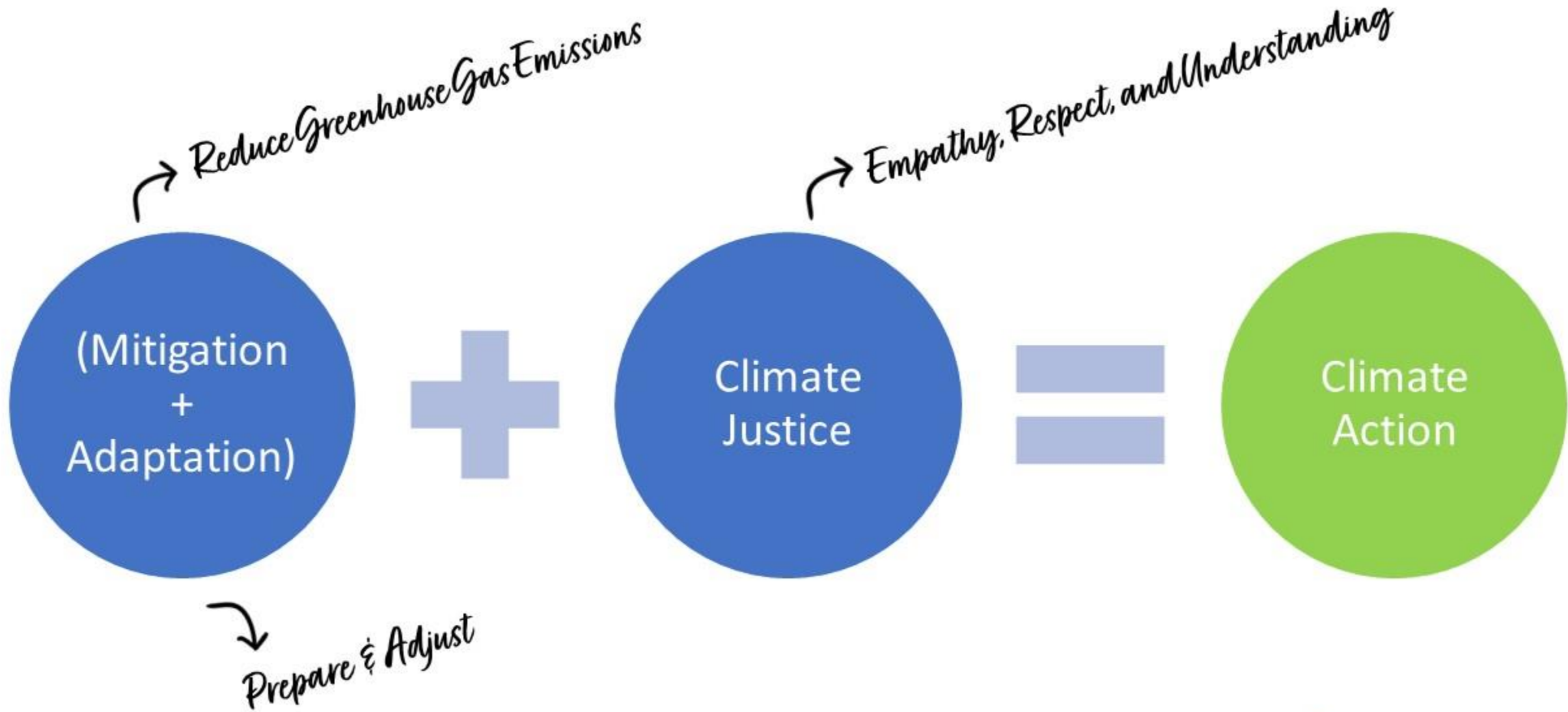
→ Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



↘ Prepare & Adjust



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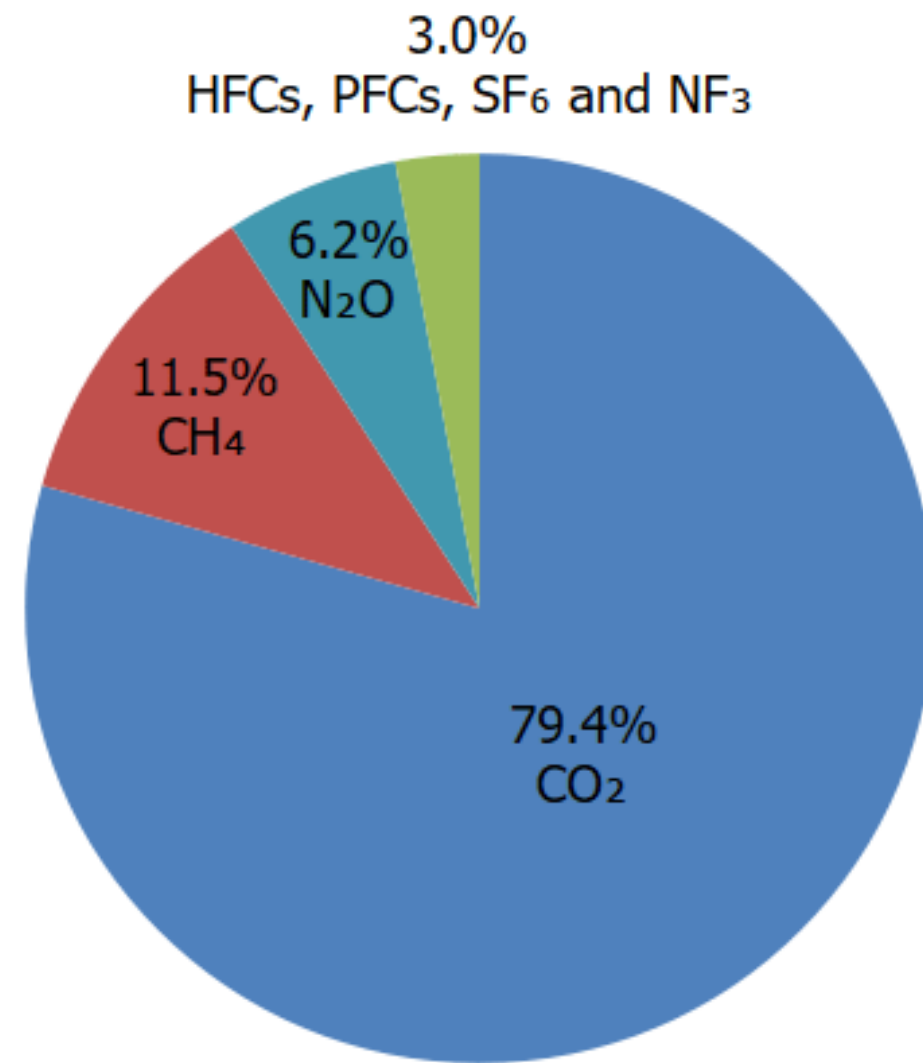


Climate Change Mitigation

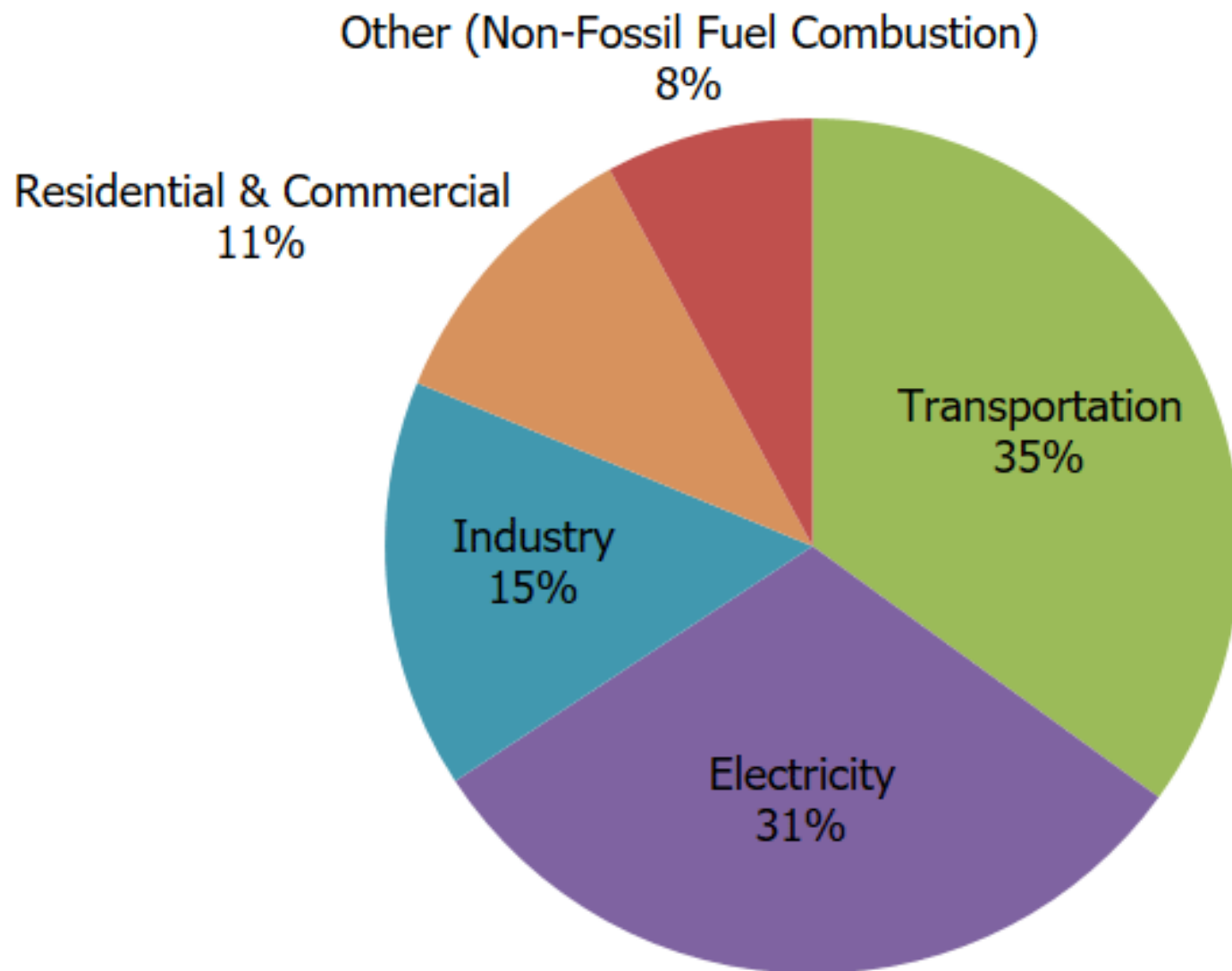
Decarbonize = Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GhG) Emissions



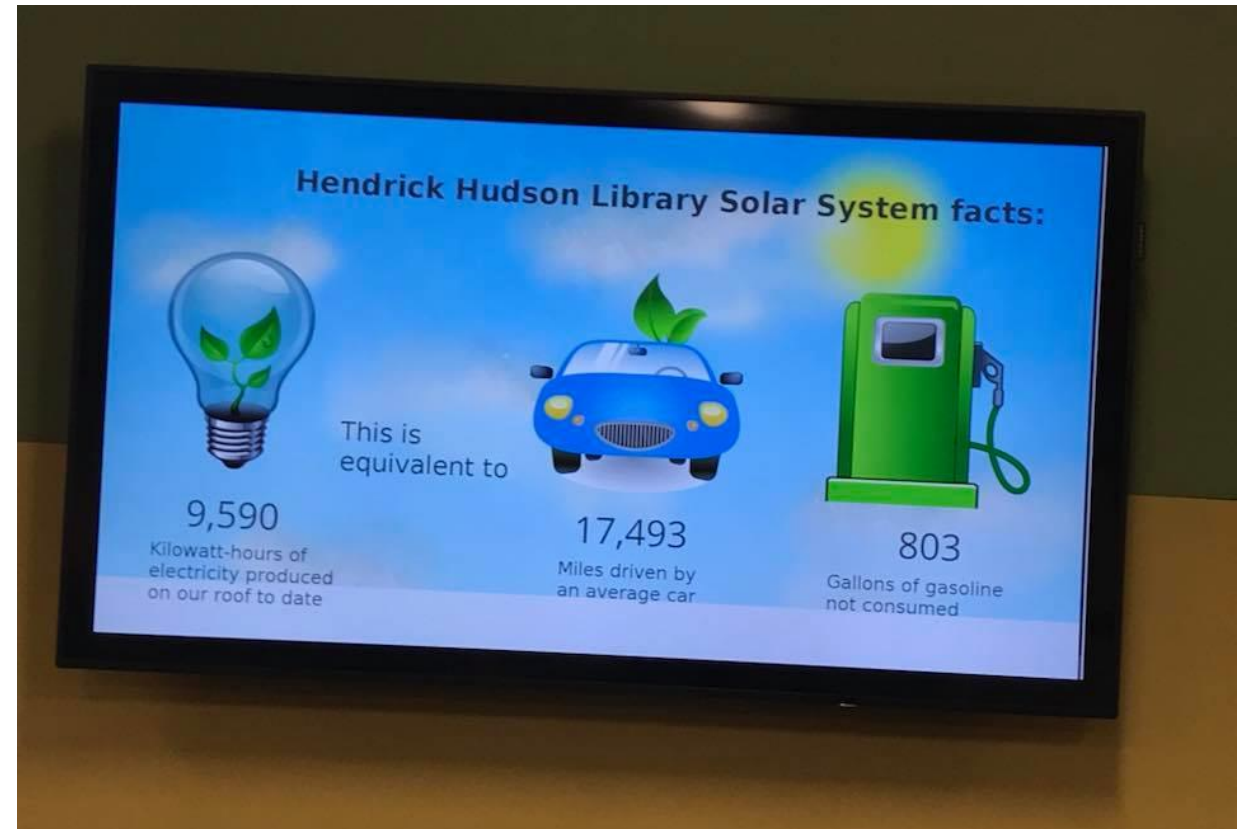
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2023). Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–2021



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2023). Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990–2021



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 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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Concord Free Library

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>  |

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



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.





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)

New York City is officially going through a heat wave, and Queens Public Library is here to help! Please visit your local library if you need an air-conditioned Cooling Center to #BeatTheHeat!
<https://www.queenslibrary.org/abo.../news-media/blog/2620...>
<http://www.nyc.gov/beattheheat> — with NYC Emergency Management.



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Cooling Center

مركز التبريد

কুলিং সেন্টার

避暑中心

Centre de
rafraîchissement

Sant Klimatizè

Centro
raffreddamento

쿨링 센터

Ośrodek
Klimatyzowany

Центр охлаждения

Centro de
Enfriamiento

کولنگ سینٹر

קיל-צענטער



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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.



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/





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

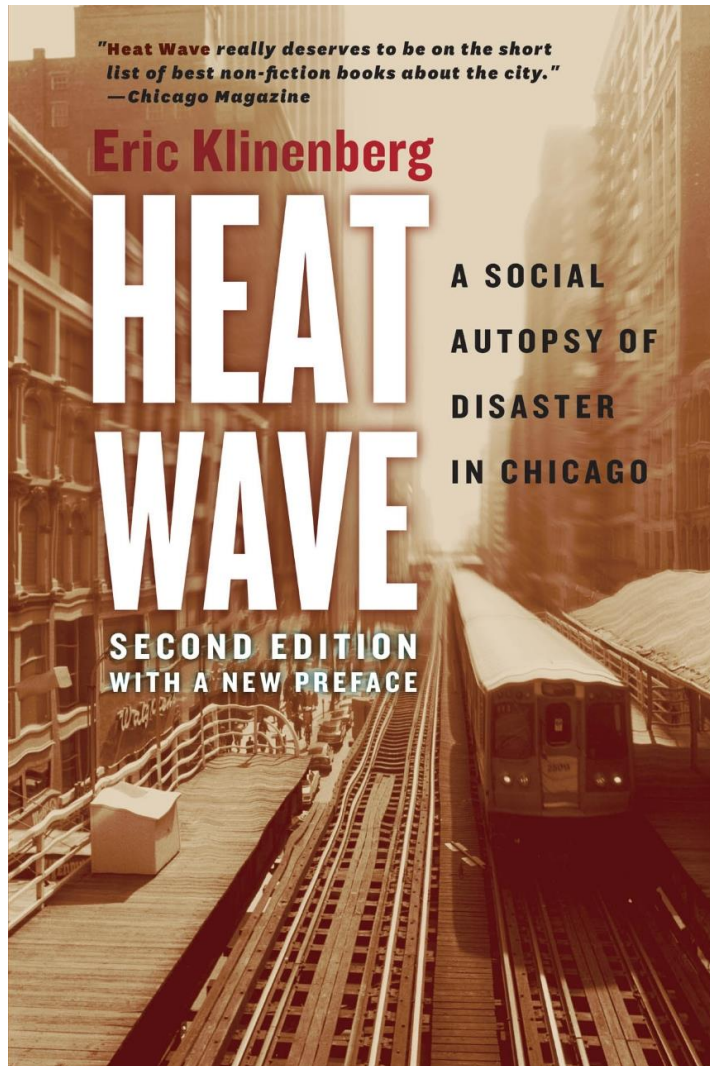


Climate Justice

Climate Justice = Social + Economic + Environmental Justice

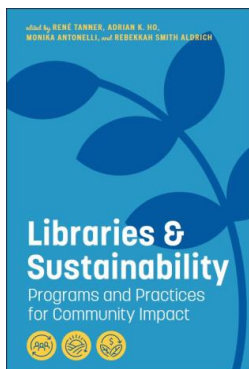
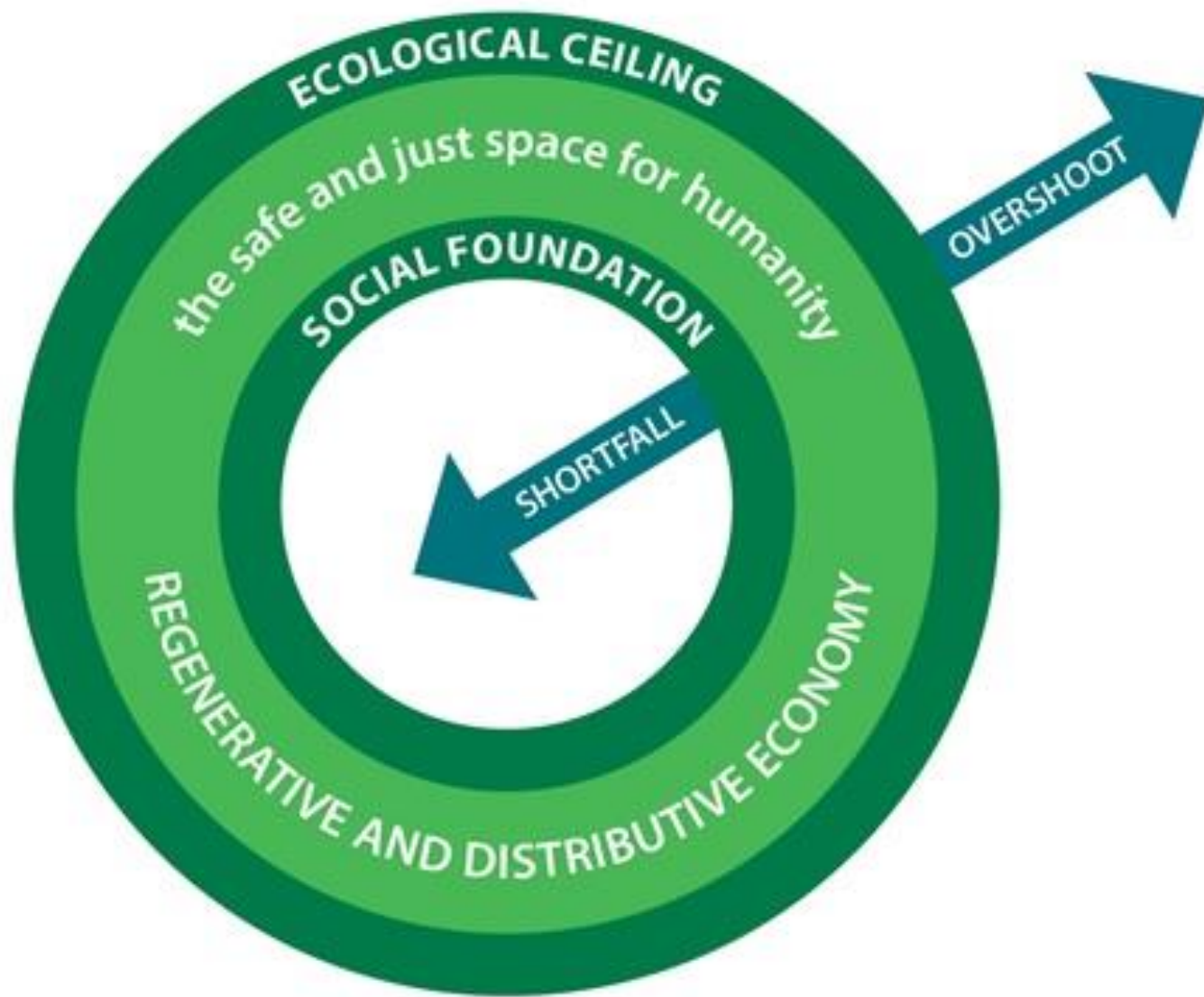


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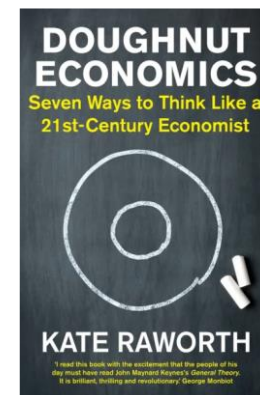


“A natural disaster is always a human-made disaster because **social conditions determine who is most vulnerable** and because **the meaning of any disaster is culturally negotiated.**”

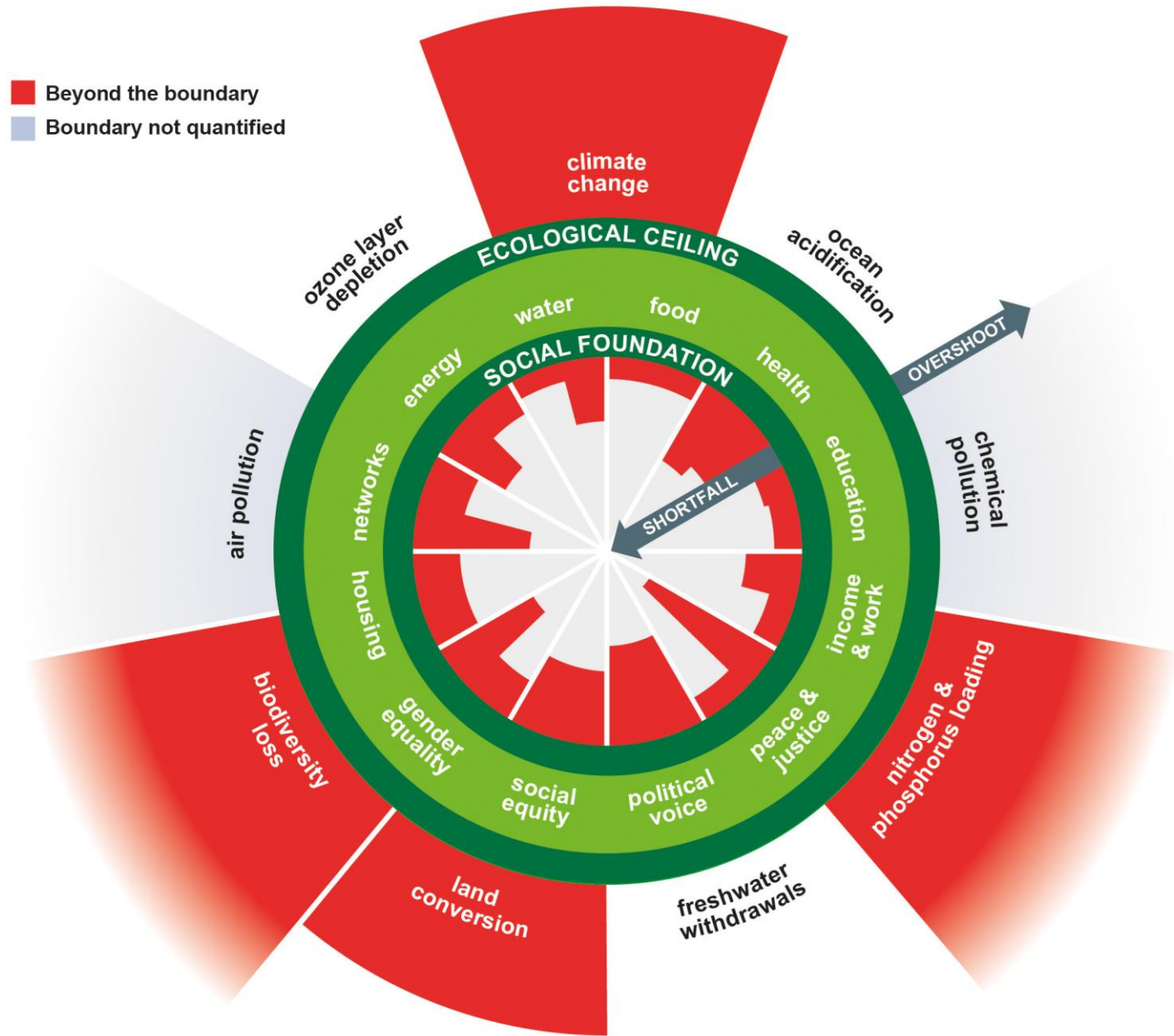
-Ann E. Larabee in her review of *Heat Wave*



<https://worldcat.org/en/title/1263022674>



<https://worldcat.org/en/title/1356749953>



Mindset shifts do not happen overnight.



START WHERE YOU ARE.

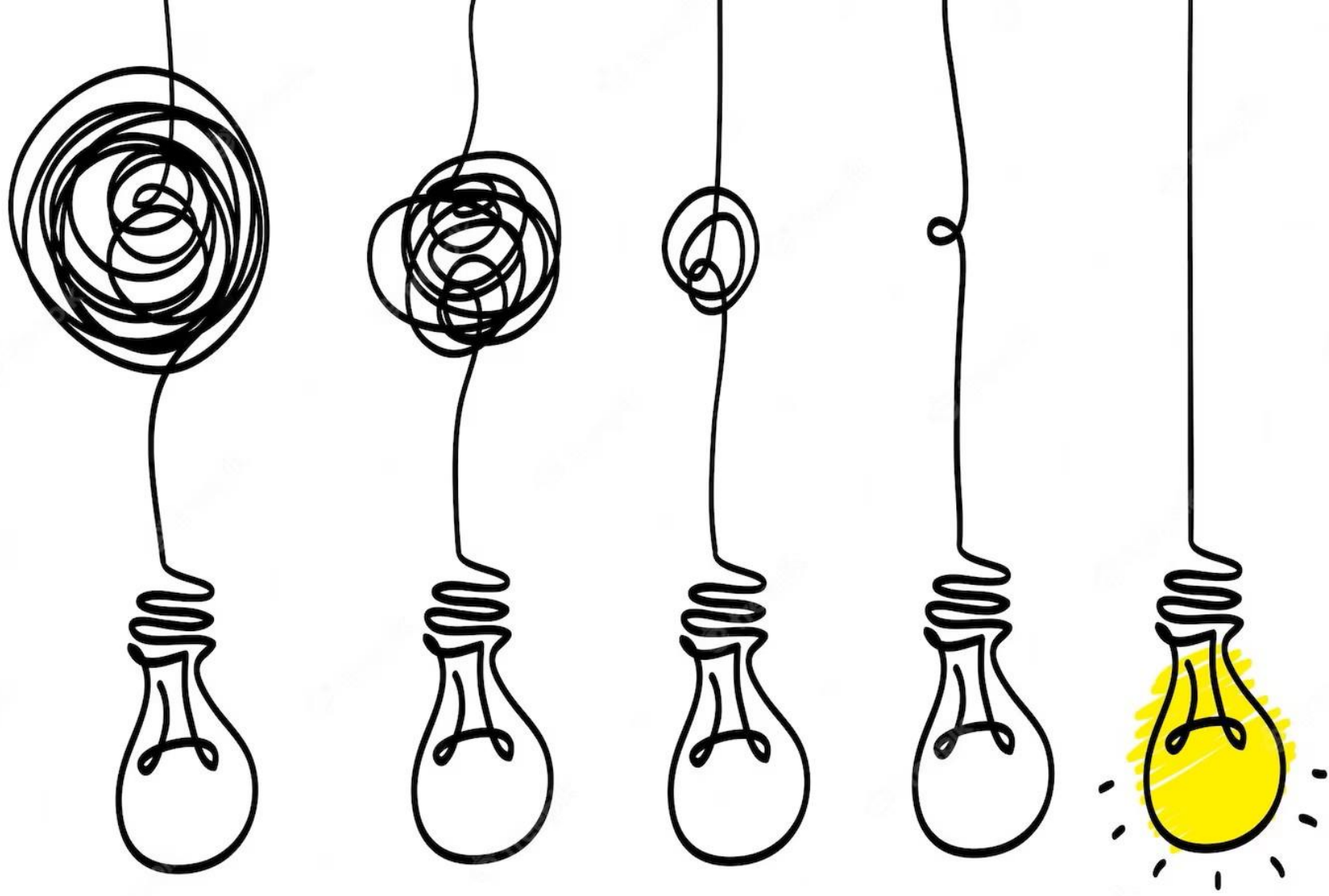
USE WHAT YOU HAVE.

DO WHAT YOU CAN.

-ARTHUR ASHE



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Finish



Start





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)



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SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE



Read Map to

SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainable Library Certification Program



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<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



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<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

Next up...



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WebJunction®



- August 16: **Climate Action Planning (Part 1): An Introduction**
- September 26: Climate Action Planning (Part 2) **Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience**
- October 3: **Climate Justice**
- November 28: **Living Our Values Out Loud: Programs that Walk the Talk**
- December 13: **Stronger Together: Collective Impact and Climate Action Programming**

There is no shortage of **ideas**.

What we are lacking is **urgency**.



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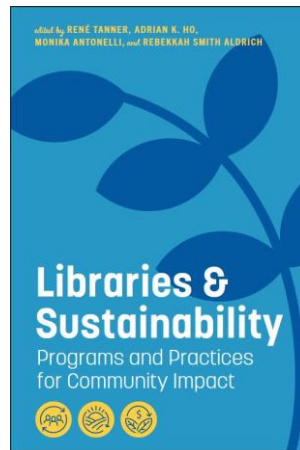
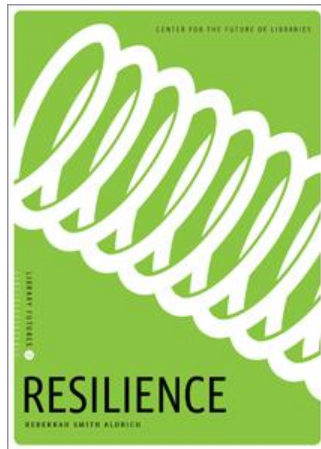
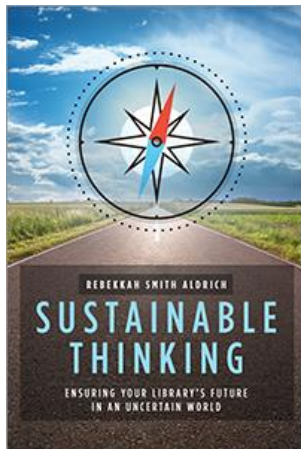
Executive Director, **Mid-Hudson Library System**

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

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

Sustainability Columnist, **Library Journal**

Author: Handbook for Library Trustees in New York State; Handbook for New Public Library Directors in New York State; Public Library District Toolkit: Strategies to Assure Your Library's Legal and Financial Stability; and:



Thank You