

Today's Presenters



Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Executive Director, Mid-Hudson Library System (NY), Co-founder/Current President, Sustainable Libraries Initiative, and Author



Michaela Porta

Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) Coordinator, New Canaan Library (CT)

Climate Justice

Sustainable Libraries: Resources and Webinars for Climate Action

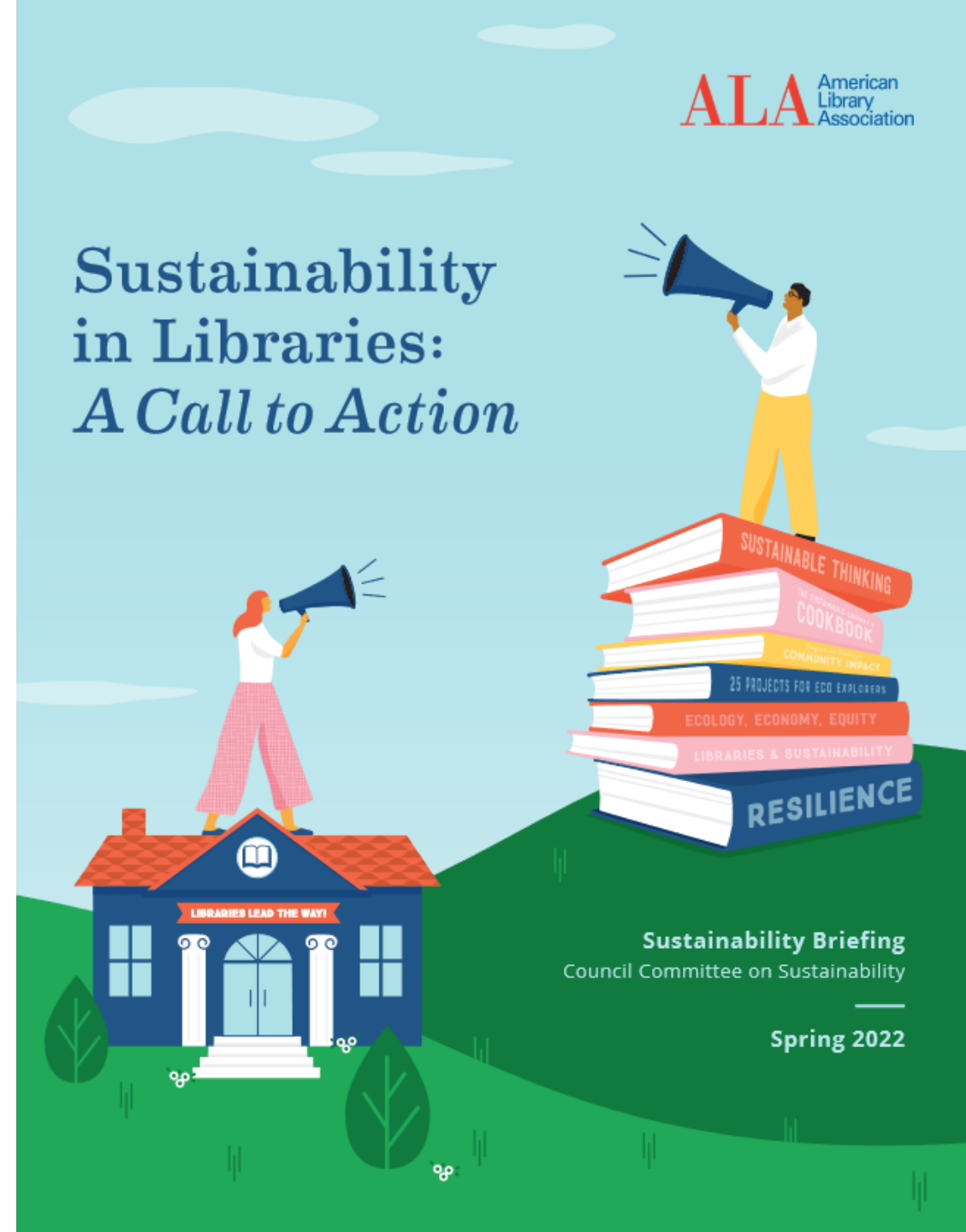
Presented by Rebekkah Smith Aldrich





Image Source: National Centers for Environmental Information, NOAA

“**Climate change** is the single greatest threat to global health, a “**code red for humanity**,” and is this generation’s **grandest challenge**.”



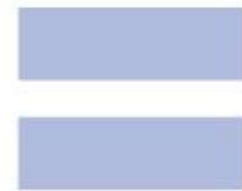
Sustainability in Libraries: *A Call to Action*



Sustainability Briefing
Council Committee on Sustainability
Spring 2022

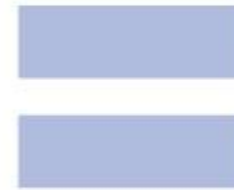
Characteristics of Sustainable Libraries

- ✓ **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)



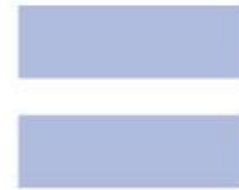
**Sustainable
Libraries
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→ Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



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Initiative**

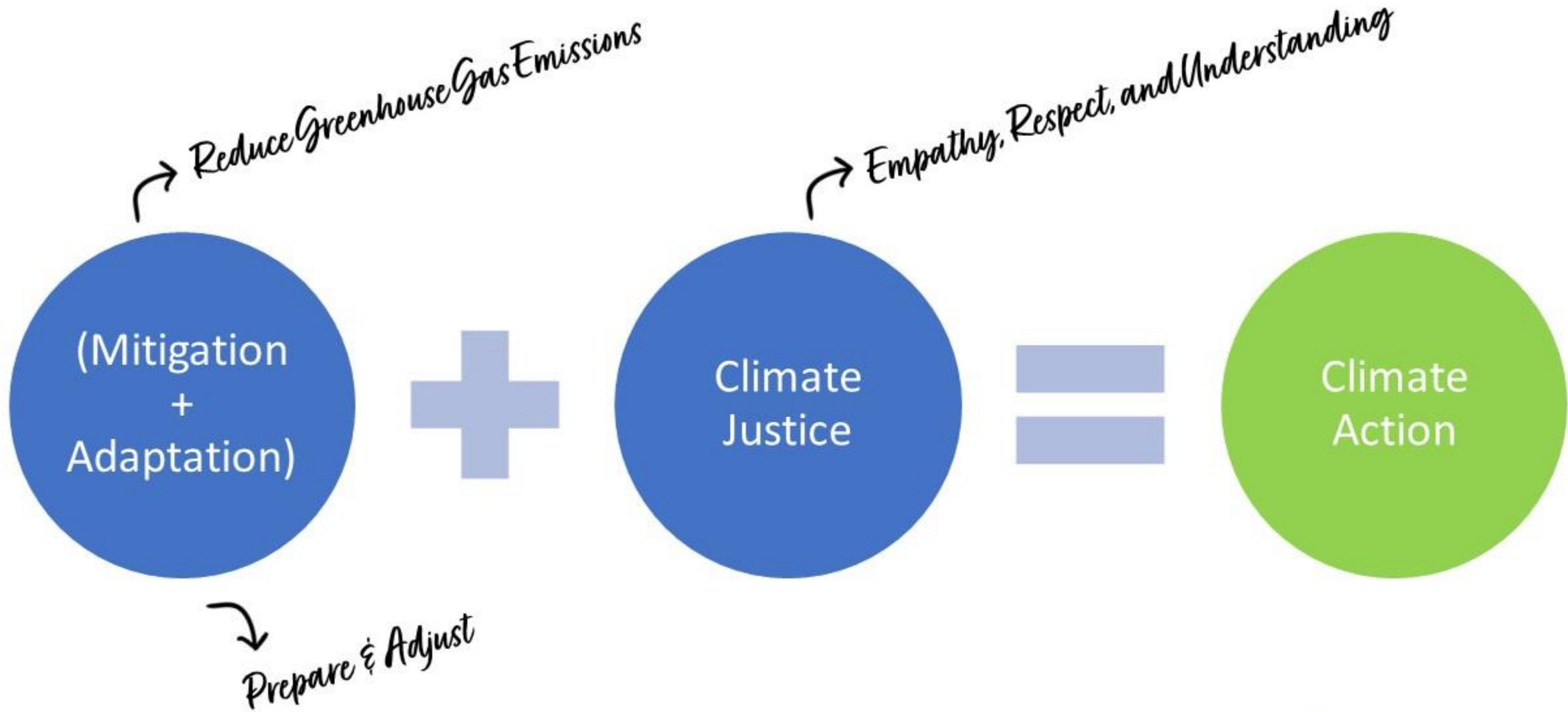
→ Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



↘ Prepare & Adjust



**Sustainable
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Climate Justice

Climate Justice = Social + Economic + Environmental Justice



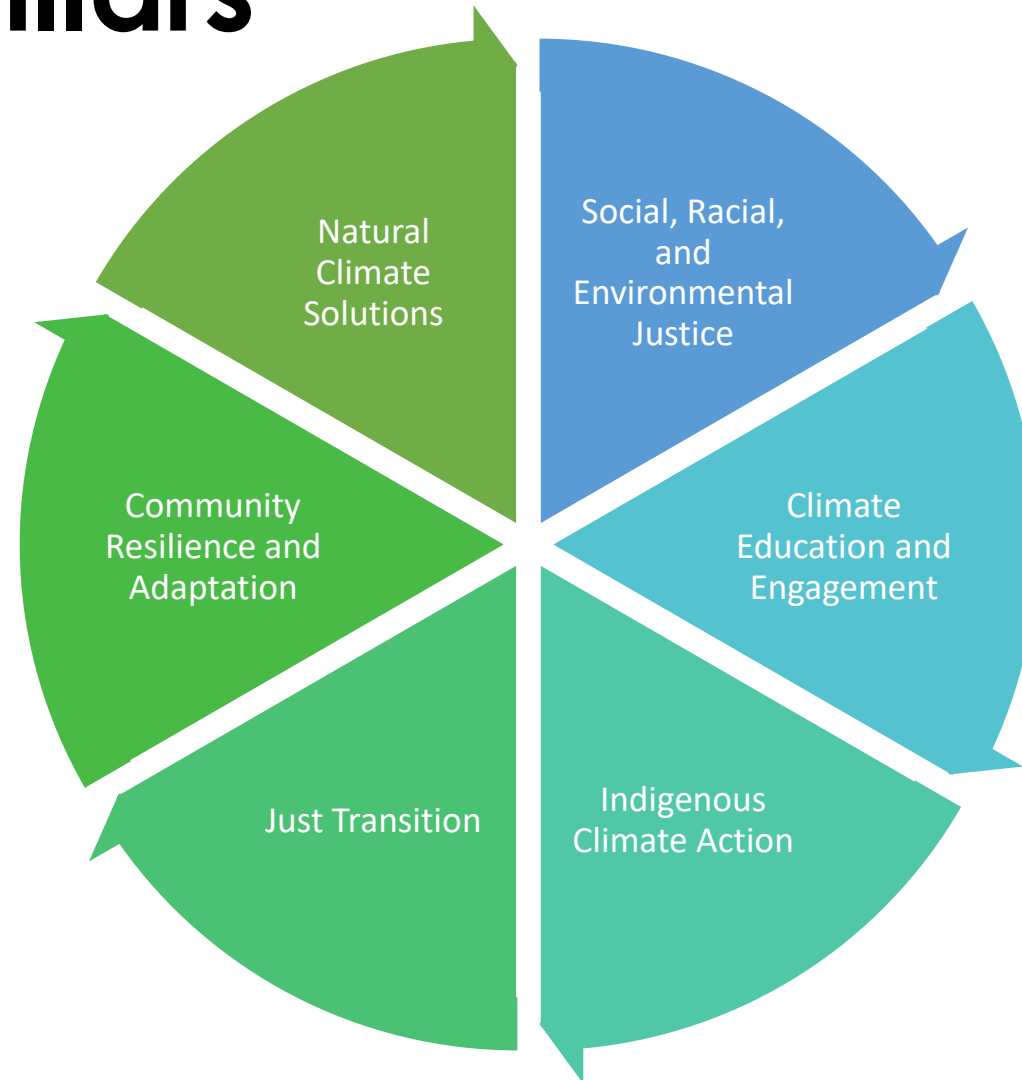
**Sustainable
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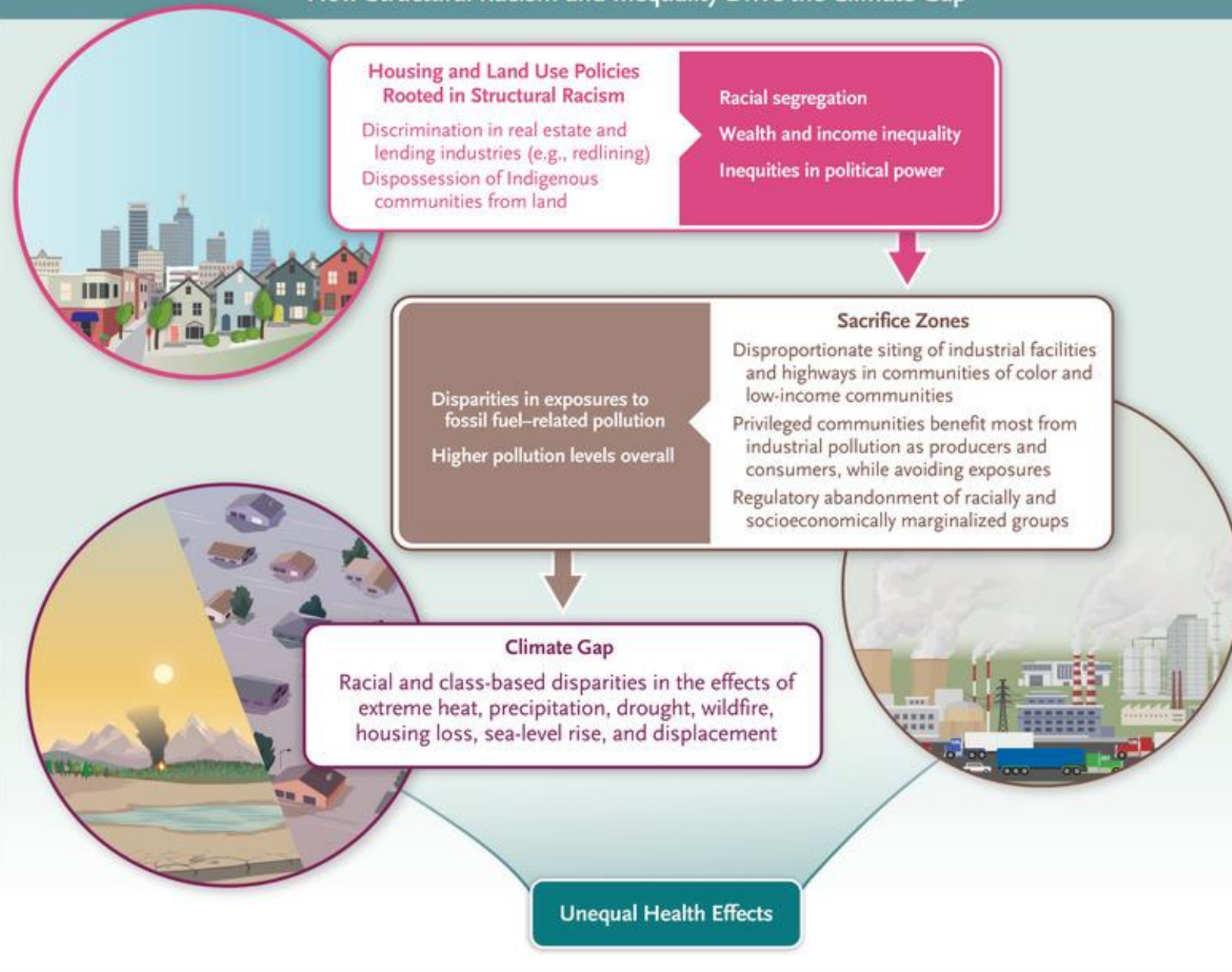
When we try to pick out
anything by itself, we find it
hitched to everything else in
the Universe.

—John Muir, conservationist

“The Six Pillars”



How Structural Racism and Inequality Drive the Climate Gap



Climate Education and Engagement

- Education based on **climate science**.
- **Goal:** effectively conveying why viewing climate change from a social justice and equity perspective is our best hope for solving the climate crisis.



Youth Climate Summit, Tupper Lake (NY)

Indigenous Climate Action

- Connect with Indigenous knowledge keepers, water protectors and land defenders.

- “...some of the most effective climate solutions are created at the **convergence** of Indigenous knowledge and western science...”



Just Transition Framework



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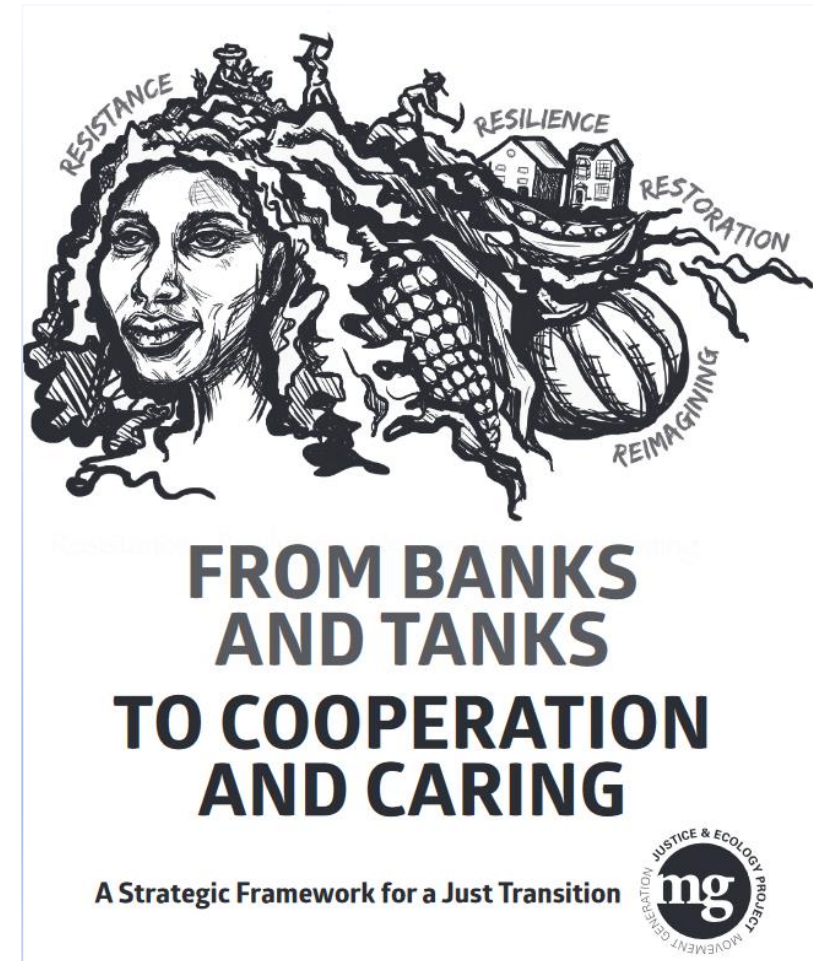


CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE
COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR A JUST TRANSITION

<https://climatejusticealliance.org/how-we-work/>

Five Just Transition Principles

- ✓ Advancing **ecological restoration**
- ✓ **Democratizing communities, wealth and the workplace**
- ✓ **Driving racial justice and social equity**
- ✓ **Relocalizing** most production and consumption
- ✓ Retaining and restoring **cultures and traditions**



<https://movementgeneration.org/justtransition/>

Transition is inevitable.

Justice is not.

Community Resilience and Adaptation

See “Climate Action Planning (Part 2)”

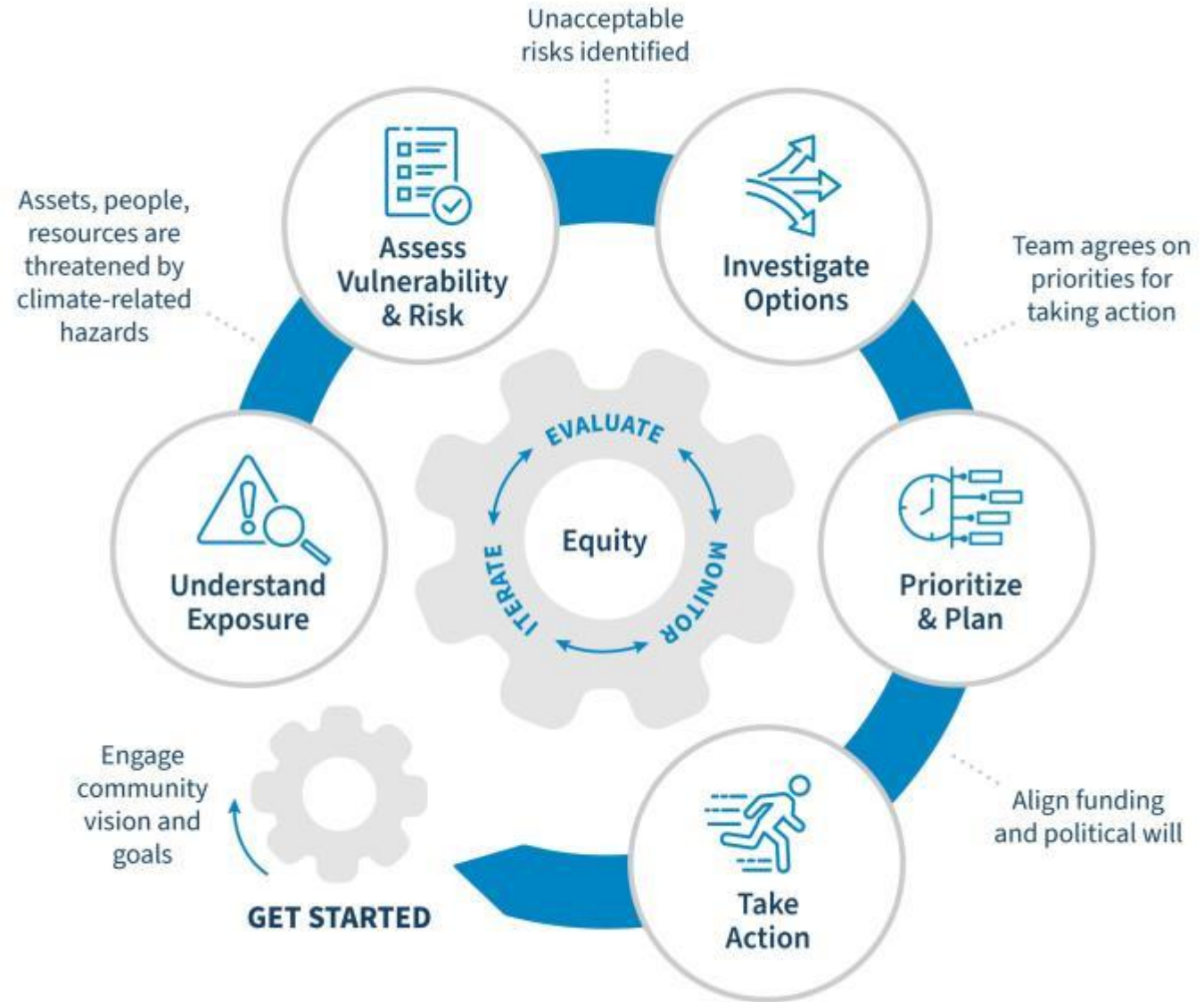




U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit

<https://toolkit.climate.gov/>

The Steps to Resilience



Social Cohesion & Civic Participation

Social Cohesion:

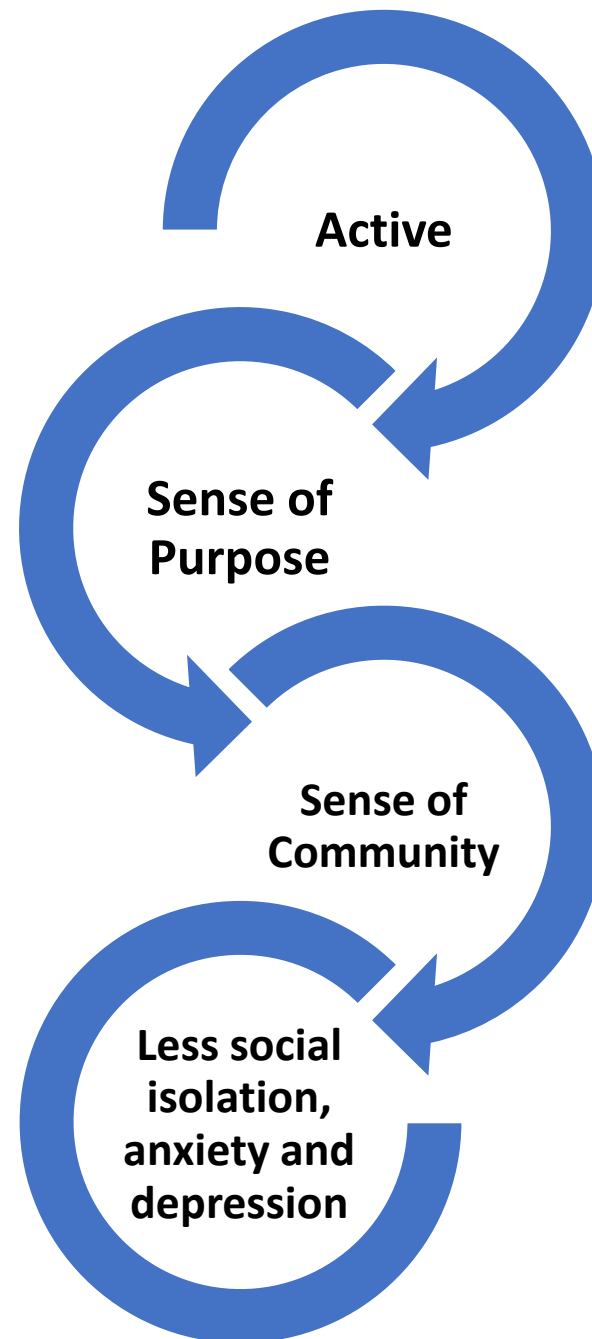
Respect, Empathy, and Understanding
Strength of Relationships
Sense of Solidarity
Social Capital through Social Networks

Civic Participation:

Voting
Volunteering
Participating in Group Activities
Community Gardening



<https://health.gov/healthypeople>



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Natural Climate Solutions

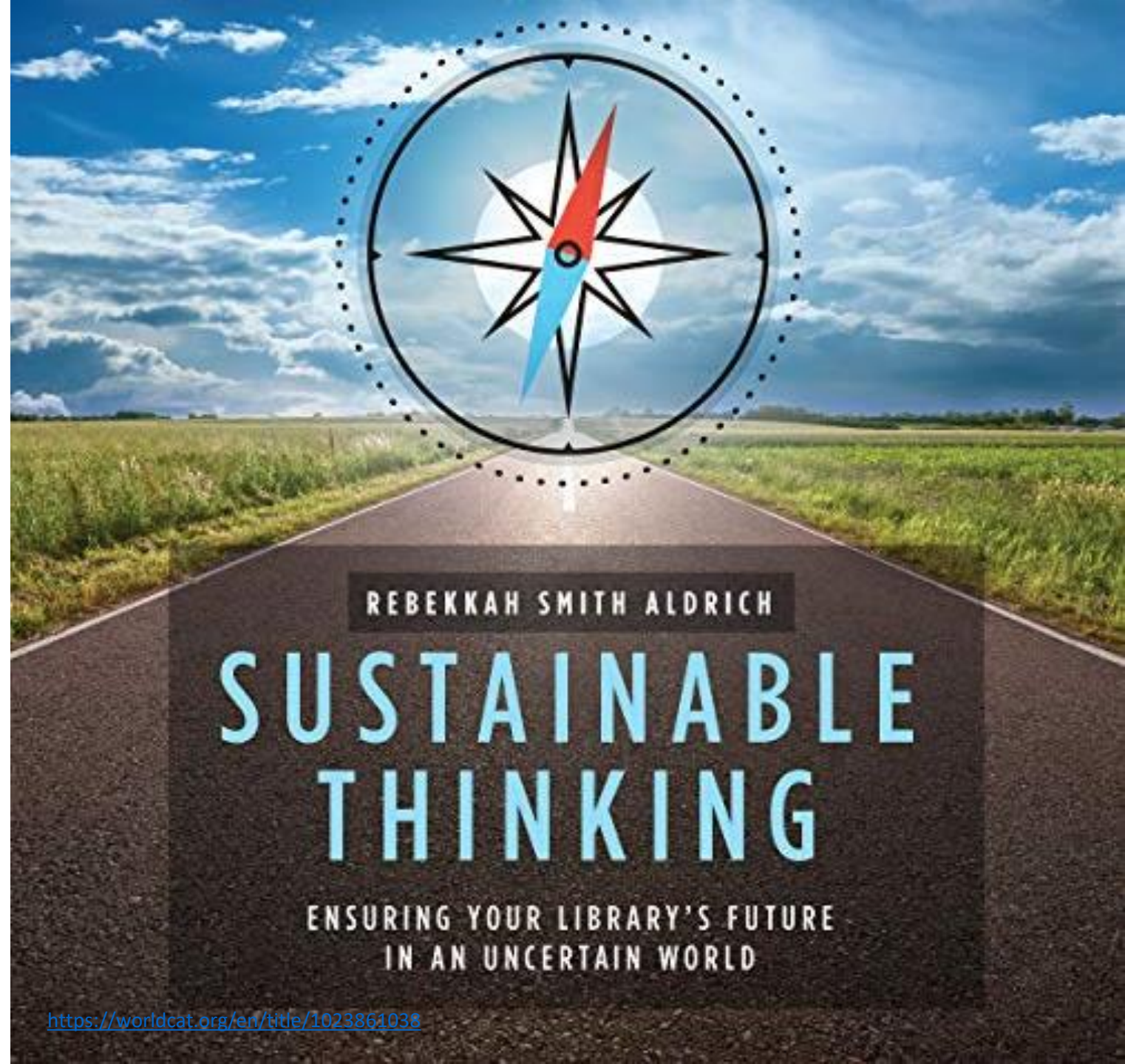
- Regenerative farming
- Agroforestry
- Permaculture
- Urban gardens
- Forest restoration

*Urban Farming program through BKLYN Incubator, a program of the **Brooklyn Public Library (NY)***



Libraries as Climate Justice Catalysts

- Focus on “Local”
- Working Together
- Focus on Diversity
- Help All Be Heard



Think like a 21st Century Economist

1. Change the Goal
2. See the Big Picture
3. Nurture Human Nature
4. Get Savvy with Systems
5. Design to Distribute
6. Create to Regenerate
7. Be Agnostic about Growth

Rollins College

[Rollins Scholarship Online](#)

Faculty Publications

2022

Libraries in the Doughnut Economy

Monika Antonelli

Minnesota State University, Mankato, monika.antonelli@mnsu.edu

Rene Tanner

Rollins College, rtanner@rollins.edu

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich

Mid-Hudson Library System, rsmith@midhudson.org

Adrian K. Ho

University of Chicago, hoadriank@uchicago.edu

https://scholarship.rollins.edu/as_facpub/252/

Guest Speaker



Michaela Porta

Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG)

Coordinator,

New Canaan Library (CT)



Triple Bottom Line Definition:

- Environmentally Sound
- Socially Equitable
- Economically Feasible

SUSTAINABLE LIBRARIES INITIATIVE



Read Map to

SUSTAINABILITY



Sustainable
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Initiative



Sustainable Library Certification Program



Sustainable
Libraries
Initiative

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...



- November 28: **Living Our Values Out Loud: Programs that Walk the Talk**



Mandi Goodsett & Evan Meszardos, authors of the chapter *“Sustainable Event Planning for Libraries and Library Organizations,”* in *Libraries & Sustainability: Programs and Practices for Community Impact*



Hazel Onsrud,
Adult Services Librarian,
Curtis Memorial Library (ME)

- December 13: **Stronger Together: Collective Impact and Climate Action Programming**

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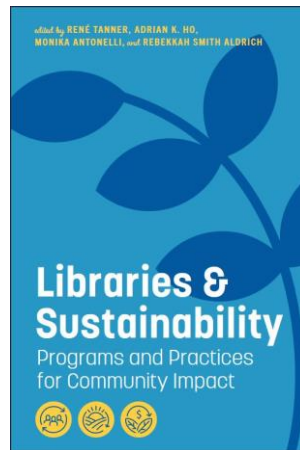
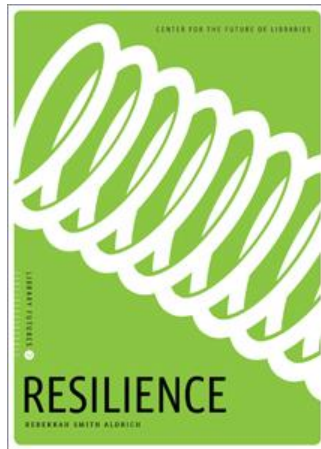
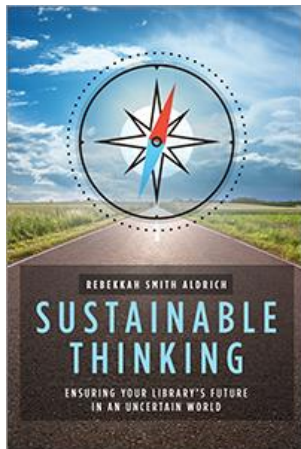
Executive Director, **Mid-Hudson Library System**

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