



# CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CLIMATE CORNER



FALL 2023

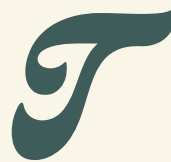
The Library Green Team, formed in January 2023, welcomes the launch of the CFPL Sustainability Newsletter!

In June 2021, the CFPL Corporation published the [CFPL Sustainability Plan](#), backed by broad community support. The Plan was among the first formed for a public library, identifying Concord and the CFPL as leaders. The Green Team supports the Plan and [The Sustainable Libraries Initiative \(SLI\)](#). The SLI provides library leaders with a proven path forward, to co-create libraries and communities that will thrive in the coming years and become more environmentally sound, socially equitable, and economically feasible.

Recent highlights of our efforts: the CFPL Corporation contracting with GreenerU to identify options for decarbonization; the Library Green Team being well on path to certification with the Sustainable Libraries Initiative; and creating new partnerships and programs for our upcoming fifth annual [CREW Climate Preparedness Week!](#)



*Pollinator friends enjoying the garden at the Fowler Library.*



The [Workshop](#), the CFPL's new makerspace, launched June 10 and holds workshops including a sustainability-focused program once a month. A Library of Things has been added to include knitting, weaving, and tech-focused items.

## ZERO WASTE UPDATES

**Refuse** – the Main Library added a new bottle-filling water fountain on the main floor for use by the public, and inline water filtering systems in both staff break rooms to replace use of bottled water and water coolers.

**Reduce** – the Library is no longer offering paper receipts (unless requested), and now uses recyclable paper for receipts. The CFPL has offset [the equivalent of 83,333 pages](#) of paper consumption to date.

**Reuse** – the Library offers other Town departments, libraries, and local nonprofits any unneeded office furniture.

**Recycle** – the Library streamlined containers and signage on trash and recycling bins. The Library also contracts to recycle surplus technology and media twice a year.

**Rot** – the Library recently started a staff composting pilot project to compost food waste in staff break rooms at both locations.

The Green Team has been hard at work on our Sustainable Libraries Initiative certification. Recently, we were able to work with our contracted cleaning company to ensure all products comply with the [EPA's Safer Choice label](#) and to replace our aerosol air fresheners. We were also able to replace the Keurig cups in the staff room with a commercially compostable alternative.

Our new favorite resource is the [Massachusetts Recyclopedia](#), which lets you check the recyclability status of any item and learn how to correctly dispose of it. You can even test your recycling knowledge with their fun [online quiz](#)!

During last year's Climate Prep Week, we planted a pollinator garden in the backyard at Fowler. Choosing the native plants, preparing the site, and decorating bricks to line the border has been a fun community effort and learning experience. Our garden continues to thrive, thanks to this collaboration with staff, patrons, pollinator committee members, high school students, the Natural Resources Division, the Land Trust, and more. [Join us for this year's Climate Prep Week programs!](#)



**FALL EVENT CALENDAR**

- FRIDAY, SEPT 15 | 11:00–12:00 PM**  
*Seed Saving with Codman Farms, at Fowler*
- SATURDAY, SEPT 16 | 12:00–4:00 PM**  
*Sustainable Makes: Visible Mending, at the Workshop*
- SATURDAY, SEPT 23 | 2:00–4:00 PM**  
*Family Nature Walk: Concord Land Conservation Trust's Nashawtuc Hill/Observe Birds & Native Plants*
- MONDAY, SEPT 25 | 2:00-3:30 PM**  
*Houseplant Swap Party, at Fowler*
- WEDNESDAY, SEPT 27 | 10:00–11:00 AM**  
*Fowler Afoot: The Nature of Oaks*
- WEDNESDAY, SEPT 27 | 6:30–8:00 PM**  
*"What's the Rush?" from Homegrown National Park, in the Goodwin Forum*
- SATURDAY, SEPT 30 | 2:00–4:00 PM**  
*Sustainable Makes: Hydroponic Planters, at the Workshop*
- SATURDAY, SEPT 30 | 3:00–4:30 PM**  
*Family Bike Rodeo, across from Fowler*
- SEPT 22 to SEPT 30 | ALL DAY**  
*Climate Ribbon Project, outside Main and Fowler*

**FOR MORE LIBRARY EVENTS**  
Go to <https://concordlibrary.org/>

The Workshop's weekly Make-It Club (ages 5 to 11) loves eco-friendly crafting! This August, CFPL kids built a giant cardboard castle out of boxes leftover from book and furniture deliveries (*left*).

