



# CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CLIMATE CORNER



FALL 2024

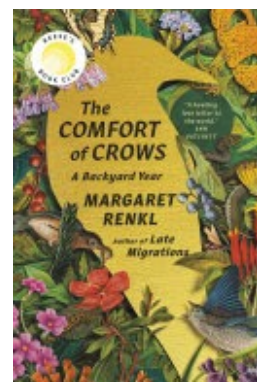


Did you add to our **Climate Ribbon** outside both libraries with your wish for our environment? The last week in September, the Library celebrated **Climate Prep Week**, offering a range of programs and resources.



This year, we received a grant from **SciStarter**, a non-profit organization that helps connect library patrons with citizen science opportunities. At both libraries, we showed the documentary **Flyways** about migratory shorebirds and the challenges they face from climate change and human activity. Local naturalist **Peter Alden** facilitated conversations after the viewings and led a nature walk through the Assabet River Bluff reserve. As we thought about these birds' incredible, threatened journeys, we offered a range of related crafts from recycled materials.

Our book club **Fowler Afoot** discussed Margaret Renkl's *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year*, finding hope in her essays. Research scientist Christina Martin introduced us to the bees and butterflies studied during the **pollinator inventory** conducted at the Minuteman National Park. In their monthly **Sustainability Studio** storytime, Mothers Out Front gave families tools for preparing for extreme weather and finding age appropriate ways to conversations with children. Farmer Jess Myles focused on native seeds during her annual **Seed Saving Workshop**.



# CLIMATE PREP WEEK 2024

We had to postpone an **Emergency Preparedness** presentation by Asst. Fire Chief Walter Latta when he was deployed to help with Hurricane Helene, underscoring the importance of this topic.

Reference librarian Gay Weiss took on the Plastic Free July challenge. She found it difficult to comply; she had to work hard to avoid plastic wrap and take-out containers, (particularly black plastic, which cannot be recycled!).

Fortunately, Gay found that some stores, notably the Cheese Shop, allow you to substitute cardboard soup containers for deli food. She also discovered that bringing in washable silicone bags works instead of plastic bags. These silicone bags are also great for storing food in the fridge. Some products, however, are designated for particular items, like onions.

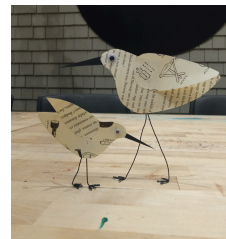
She created a useful “Flee from Plastic” display at the Main Library. Challenge yourself to discover substitutes for plastic!

If you were not able to join us to watch the documentary, *We are All Plastic People Now*, stream it [online](#).



## Sustainable Crafting

Whether in our children’s programs or in the Workshop, we love crafting, and we do our best to do so sustainably! Here are a few ideas for ways to create and cut down on waste.



### Share Craft Materials!

In October, Stitch Circle hosted a Yarn Swap, and it was a wonderful way to pass on no longer wanted yarn and to get started on new projects. Stay tuned for future swaps!

### Reuse, Recycle!

We do our best to reuse materials, including old, withdrawn books, newspapers, egg cartons, wreath forms, cardboard, milk jugs, CDs, jars - you name it! We also try to use natural materials, such as pine cones, sticks, and leaves.

### Support Sustainable Practices!

The best craft helps us make other sustainable choices! We’ve made tote bags, wax cloth, and more during our “Sustainable Makes” programs. Join us for our Sustainable Wrap Party on December 19 for a less waste over the holidays!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit our online calendar for updates and to register for programs!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 | 2 PM | WORKSHOP**  
Upcycled Container Candles

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 11 AM FOWLER**  
Sustainable Studio with Mothers Out Front

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 | 10 AM | FOWLER**  
Fowler Afoot: *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Willson

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 | 2 PM | WORKSHOP**  
Upcycled Container Candles

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 4 - 7 PM | WORKSHOP**

Sustainable Wrap Party with Alex Makes Art



# CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMMUNITY

## ORGANIZATIONS TO EXPLORE

- [Boston Area Gleaners](#)
- [Sudbury Valley Trustees](#)
- [Climate Action Committee](#)
- [Cooler Concord](#)
- [Concord CAN \(Climate Action Network\)](#)
- [Grow Native Massachusetts](#)
- [Mothers Out Front](#)
- [Pollinator Health Advisory Committee](#)
- [Safe Routes to School](#)



## RESOURCES

- [Sustainable Concord's Climate Action and Resilience Plan](#) is a roadmap to meet the commitments the Concord community made at 2017 and 2018 Annual Town Meetings to reduce GHG emissions 80% by 2050 and to prioritize climate resilience goals and initiatives. The town Sustainability Department is starting the process of updating, and they welcome feedback.
- [Sustainable Concord Dashboard](#) covers built environment, energy, mobility, natural resources, preparedness, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- [Sustainable Concord Landscape Handbook](#) covers removing invasive plants, lawn alternatives, native plants beneficial to pollinators, and conserving water to help mitigate climate change and increase biodiversity.
- The Division of Natural Resources has created a helpful [Native Plants for Sustainable Landscaping](#) brochure and [Invasive Species in Concord](#).
- [Department of Public Works yard waste](#) provides an invasive plants bin at the Compost Site.

## STAFF PICK

**Need a little help envisioning a positive climate future?** Pick up the book, *[What if We Get it Right? Visions of Climate Futures](#)* by Ayana Johnson, an inspiring, thought-provoking read! Dr. Johnson has gathered an awesome mix of voices, from farmers to artists to CEOs. She sprinkles symbols like blue asterisks and hearts throughout the book, guiding you to important, heartfelt ideas and information. You can pick and choose what you want to dive into, which makes it super reader-friendly. Colorful photo montages by visual artist Olalejan Jeyifious help you imagine a futuristic farming community. Johnson includes poetry, and lists of problems alongside possibilities, making for a clever way to flip the script and spark hope! Overall, it is a great blend of playfulness and serious ideas that makes you think, feel, and maybe even dream a little.

- Nadine, Technical Services





# PHOTO GALLERY



## Ag Day

Green Team members joined the Library Corporation and Friends of CFPL during the 19th annual Ag Day.

We talked about our SLI certification, our sustainable resources, programming, and commitment, and gave out native plant seedlings from our Winter Seed Sow Workshops.



## Sustainability Studios

Mothers Out Front join library staff to lead a monthly storytime and craft exploring different sustainability themes. In July, we made "plarn" or plastic yarn; in August, we had a visit from one of CPS's electric buses; and in September we made shadow puppets during Climate Prep Week. Join us at 11 AM on the fourth Saturday of the month at Fowler Library



## Bike to School

As a [Safe Routes to School](#) partner, the Library helped promote annual Walk, Ride, and Roll to School events during October. PTG support and beautiful weather resulted in record turnouts. We particularly had fun creating huskeys for Thoreau students to look out for on their way to and from school!





# PHOTO GALLERY



## Celebrating Pollinators

Started in Fall 2022, our pollinator garden in the Fowler backyard continues to evolve. In August, we had a party with Art for All to celebrate the addition of painted bees, butterflies, and more to the fence.



## Climate Prep Week

A few photos from our different activities, including crafts, our Seed Saving Workshop, and our West Concord Nature Walk.



## Leaders in Training

This summer, Concord Recreation's Leaders in Training painted "book bricks," adding to our gallery in our pollinator garden.



## New Garden

Fowler Library will add a new pollinator demonstration garden in the front yard. With support and materials from Concord Public Works, staff prepared the soil. We are using a technique called sheet mulching, aka lasagna mulching. It involves layering cardboard, carbon-rich compost, and nitrogen-rich mulch. We will design and plant the garden in the spring.

