



CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CLIMATE CORNER



— SPRING 2024 —

At the end of March the CFPL submitted our application to become the first certified sustainable library in Massachusetts through the [Sustainable Libraries Initiative!](#) A panel of reviewers will take several weeks to go over our application and let us know the results. This is a big exciting step that the Green Team is very proud to finally take after four years of work!

We installed a hygrometer to assess the humidity and temperature conditions for the Main Library book collections. The levels are within the appropriate range for library books and we will continue to monitor them throughout the year.

Our West Concord community-focused art group Art for All has the pollinator bug now, too. They led three workshops at Fowler to repurpose yard signs into celebrations of nature that also let passersby know that the creator's yard isn't messy -- it's supporting biodiversity!



Participants at the Art for All lawn sign workshop with their finished project



Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the CFPL we offer several museum and recreation passes to borrow.

Visit our website to reserve discounted passes to MA State Parks, MA Audubon, Trustees of Reservations properties and more to get outside this spring!

ZERO WASTE UPDATES

Refuse – the [Library of Things collection](#) is expanding; help the planet by refusing to buy new items that will only be used a few times and borrow them from us instead

Reduce – the library has offset the equivalent of over 80,000 standard pages since joining the Print Releaf program through our recycled receipt paper supplier

Reuse – did you know the library offers a community puzzle swap at both Main and Fowler? donate your old puzzles and take home new-to-you puzzles any time you visit

Recycle – the library received a generous rainbow of fabric donations from the community to be reused in a Pride month rag wreath program at the Workshop

Rot – the library has expanded their staff composting project to the Fowler branch as well as the Main library

The Concord Seed Lending Library at Fowler has opened its drawers for 2024! After a successful packing party on 3/16, we stocked it with seeds purchased with funds from the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library and donated seeds from various companies. Our goal is to have more seeds "returned," as gardeners learn how to save seeds either on their own or in our yearly workshop with Codman Community Farms. As we work toward that goal, we happily support the sharing of seeds, excitement, and knowledge. On Friday, 4/26, Jess Myles of Codman Community Farms will lead our annual seed starting workshop.

We are also partnering with Mothers Out Front to have a monthly "Sustainability Studio" at Fowler - a Saturday storytime dedicated to different ways we can work to help the environment and reduce our waste. In January, we focused on mending and reusing clothing, and in February we built cardboard trains and celebrated public transit. One attendee was inspired after our last program and not only took the train to have a wonderful day out in Belmont with his family but convinced a coworker to start commuting to work together on the train as well!



Sustainability Studio participants building their cardboard train in February

APRIL EVENT CALENDAR

THURSDAYS IN APRIL | 6:00–7:30 PM

Sustainable Makes: Upcycled Stuffed Animals (ages 10+, registration required)

WEDNESDAY, APR 10 | 1:30–2:30 PM

Green Routes to School: Stories and Crafting at Main

THURSDAY, APR 11 | 6:00–7:00 PM

Growing with Climate Change at Main
Registration recommended

SATURDAY, APR 20 | 12:00–4:00 PM

Cooler Concord Climate Festival at Main on the Library Lawn

SUNDAY, APR 21 | 2:00–3:30 PM

Concord Wetland Wildlife: Close Looks at the Animals of Thoreau's Favorite Swamp with Ron McAdow at Main
Registration required

FRIDAY, APR 26 | 12:30–1:30 PM

Seed Starting Workshop at Fowler
Registration required

SATURDAY, APR 27 | 11:00–11:45 AM

Sustainability Studio with Mothers Out Front at Fowler

SATURDAY, APR 27 | 2:00–4:00 PM

Sustainable Makes: Native Seed Bombs at Main (ages 5+, no registration required)

Check out the [full listing of Earth Month events on our website](#) to keep up with all the exciting sustainability-focused programs we'll be offering in April!



PHOTO GALLERY



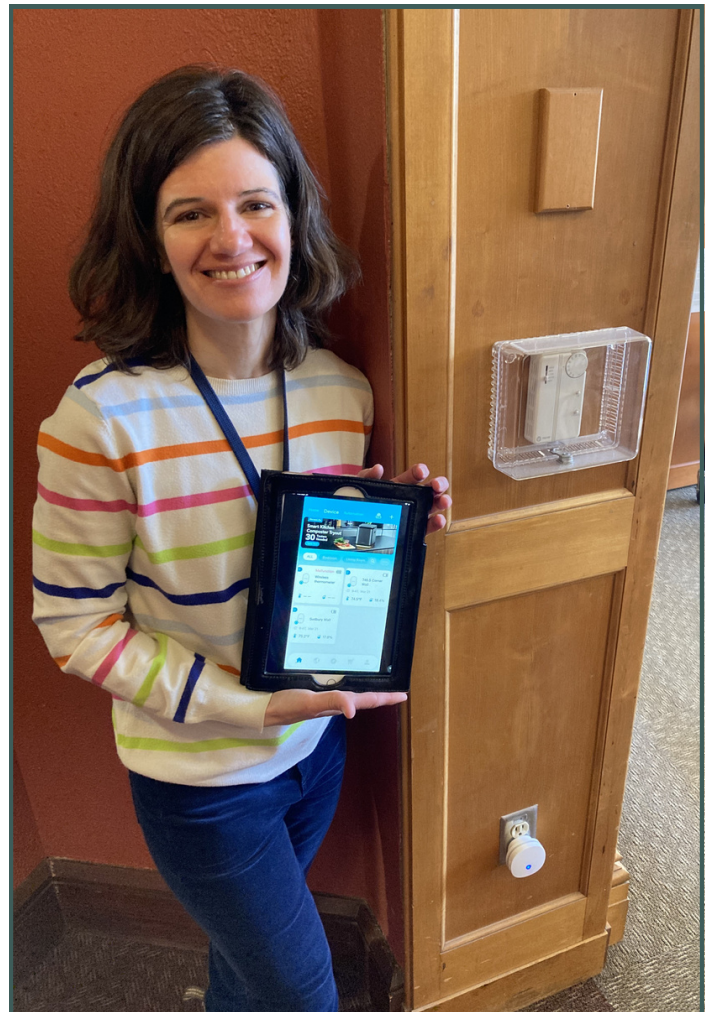
The restocked seed lending library at Fowler



Two uses for recycled fabric in the Workshop: upcycled stuffed animals for our April series (left) and material for our Pride month rag wreath program (right)



An example journal and bookmark made of recycled paper in the Workshop



Green Team member Michelle showing off the hygrometer monitoring app