

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CLIMATE CORNER

SUMMER 2024



The Concord Free Public Library has been designated a “Certified Sustainable Library” through the Sustainable Libraries Initiative’s award-winning Sustainable Library Certification Program (SLCP). We are the first library in Massachusetts to obtain this certification, and we look forward to continuing our sustainability work and mentoring other libraries in building a more sustainable future!

EXCITING NATIONAL LIBRARY NEWS JUST RELEASED!

A National Climate Action Strategy was unveiled at ALA Annual Conference! The American Library Association and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative created the National Climate Action Strategy for Libraries Implementation Guide with the goal to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase work on climate adaptation to ensure libraries are contributing to community resilience, and harness the power of education for climate justice.

PLASTIC FREE JULY

Visit the Library and the [Plastic Free July website](#) to learn how to participate! Our reference librarian and Green Team member Gay signed the pledge and will share her discoveries in our fall newsletter. So far, Gay has switched to silicone bags, bringing them into local Concord shops for her purchases. Shops have responded to her requests to use these bags or they have substituted recyclable paper alternatives when available. Join the effort, and learn about the [Act to Reduce Plastics](#) working its way through the MA Legislature!

LIBRARY MATERIALS

Puzzle Swap: The Library purchased puzzles to make our swap even more sustainable. The new additions are made from recycled paperboard, biodegradable glue, and veggie and water based ink.

Citizen Scientist Kits: Support large-scale experiments by borrowing kits! These include Measuring Light in the Night Sky, Monitoring Air Quality, Mapping Mosquito Habitats, Exploring Biodiversity, and Observing Pollinators.

Library of Things: Borrow our Induction Burner, Energy Waste Detector, Smart Bird Feeder and more!

GREEN TEAM TIPS

- Need to recycle office and art supplies? Looking to throw out light bulbs or batteries? Learn about the recycling services at [Staples](#).
- Cut down on your plastic use by investigating alternative laundry sheets.
- Try reusable silicone bags instead of single use plastic.
- Find BPI certified compostable products at local markets.
- Visit MassSave to learn about [rebates](#) on appliances and products.

JULY EVENTS

MONDAY, JULY 15 | 6 PM | MAIN

As part of Riverfest, join us for a colorful talk on what birds Henry David Thoreau saw versus the birds we see today.

SATURDAY, JULY 20 | 2 PM | WORKSHOP

Sew-Your-Own Bookmark! Stitch up your own cotton bookmark while learning to use the Workshop's sewing tools and machines!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24 | 10 AM | FOWLER

Join Fowler Afoot to discuss [The Boatman: Henry David Thoreau's River Years](#) while walking along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24 | 2 PM | FOWLER

Members of the Sudbury Assabet Concord (SuAsCo) River Stewardship Council will lead River Lab! Drop by for hands-on exploration.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24 | 6 PM | MAIN

Join members of Mothers Out Front and Oceana to watch and discuss the documentary, [We're All Plastic People Now](#). Learn more about the Act to Reduce Plastics, working its way through the MA legislature.

SATURDAY, JULY 27 | 2 PM | WORKSHOP

Cyanotype Printing using found materials and sunlight!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31 | 4 PM | FOWLER

Celebrate Plastic Free July with stories and crafts with members of Mothers Out Front.

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



PHOTO GALLERY



CELEBRATING SUSTAINABILITY IN THE COMMUNITY



HIGHLIGHTS

- This month is Riverfest, so we will join SuAsCo in celebrating our wonderful rivers during several of our programs! Plus enjoy free hikes, paddles, walks, and family fun during the month of July in this annual celebration of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- Concord's Sustainability Department has launched the Sustainability Roundtable! The first meeting was on June 25. View the recording online!
- First Fridays with the League of Women Voters offers topics like Getting Off Gas
- Art for All's Signs of Life project is spreading the word about helping pollinators. The signs are now in the Fowler pollinator garden.
- The Concord Minuteman Bike Share is available for the season. This is a great way for residents and visitors to get around.



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.
- 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.

