

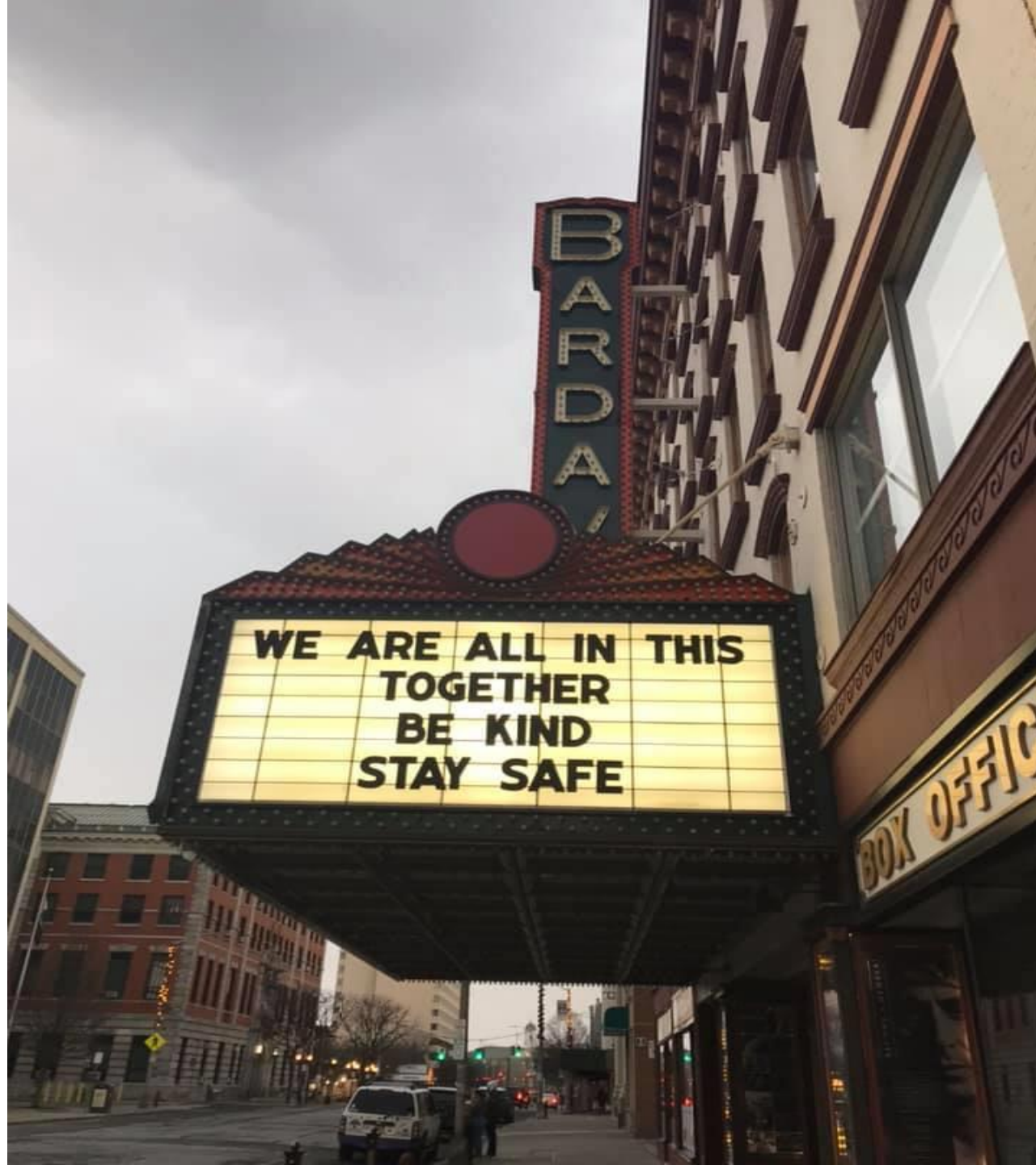


# What the World Needs Now...

## Sustainable Thinking for Community Resilience

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich | Academic Library Association of Ohio | October 2020



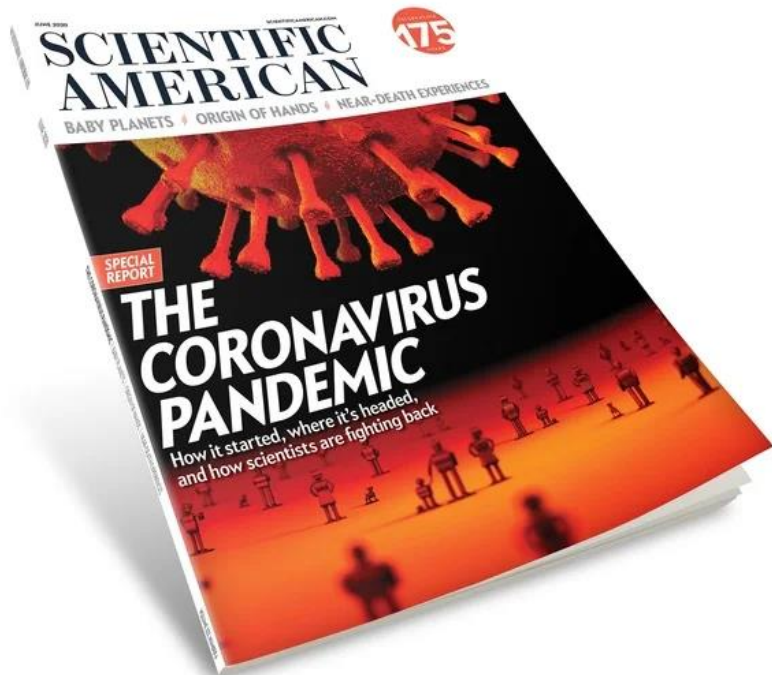




# Stopping Deforestation Can Prevent Pandemics

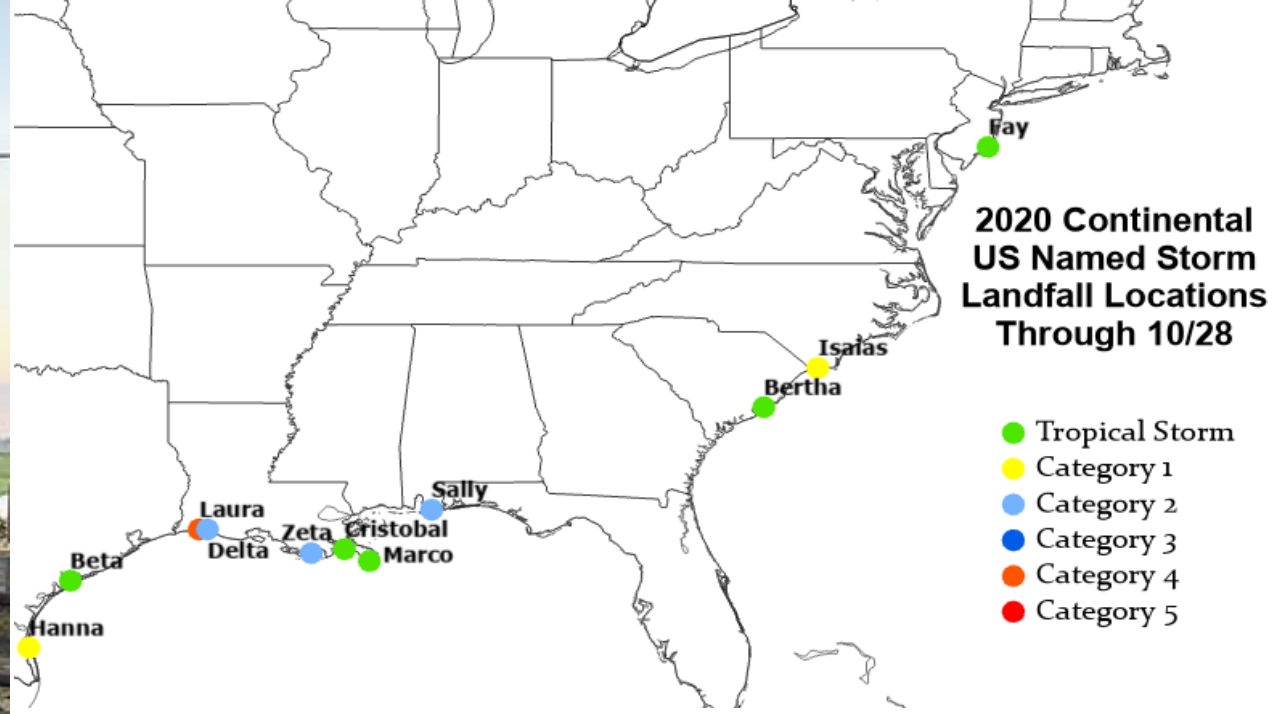
Destroying habitats makes viruses and other pathogens more likely to infect humans

By THE EDITORS on June 1, 2020



“Ending deforestation and thwarting pandemics would address **six of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals:** the guarantee of healthy lives, zero hunger, gender equality, responsible consumption and production, sustainably managed land, and climate action...”





# Pre-COVID-19

## **Very High Confidence**

- Low-lying areas: submergence, coastal flooding, and coastal erosion
- Exacerbation of existing health problems

## **High Confidence**

- All aspects of food security will be compromised, including food access and price stability

## **Medium Confidence**

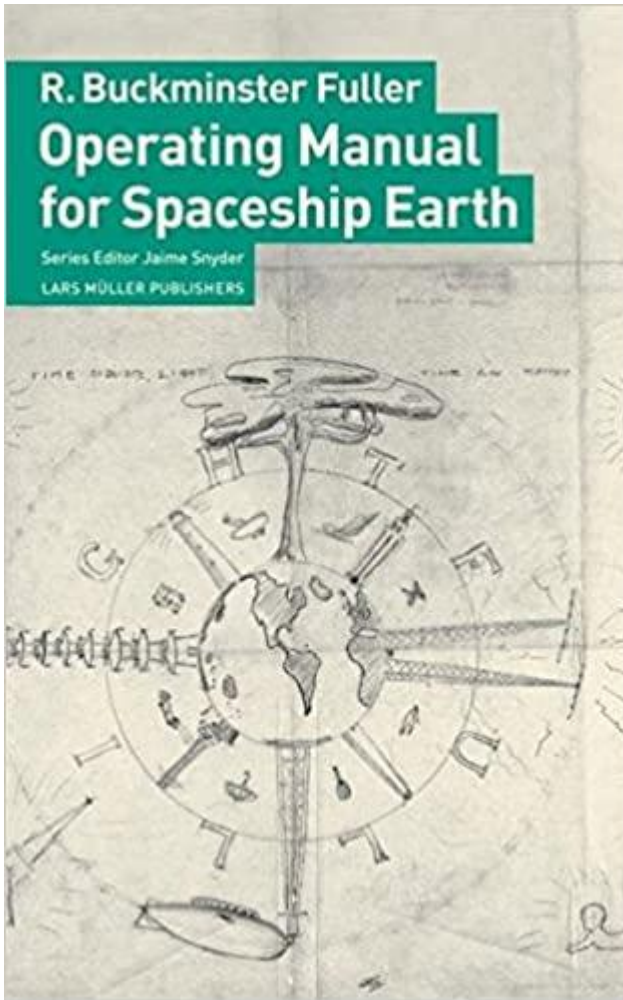
- Increased risks of violent conflicts in the form of civil war and inter-group violence due to the amplification of poverty and economic shocks



# MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



Source: *Sustainable Thinking: Ensuring Your Library's Future in an Uncertain World* [ALA Editions, 2018]



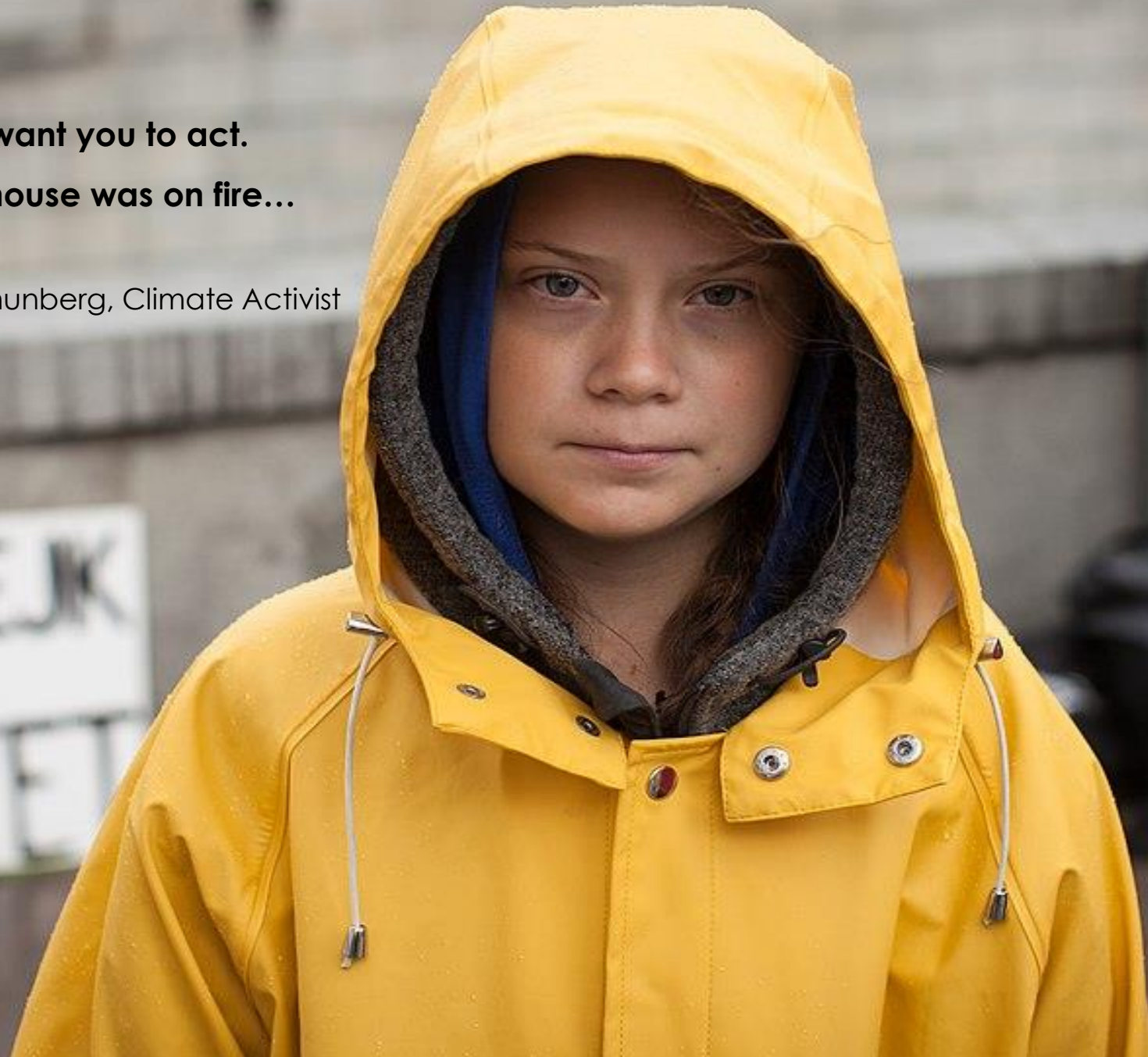
**“It has to be everybody or nobody.”**

-Buckminster Fuller



**“I don’t want your hope. I want you to act.  
I want you to act as if the house was on fire...  
because it is.”**

-Greta Thunberg, Climate Activist



# What the world needs now...

- Local matters.
- Working together.
- Recognize and value diversity.
- Help all to be heard.

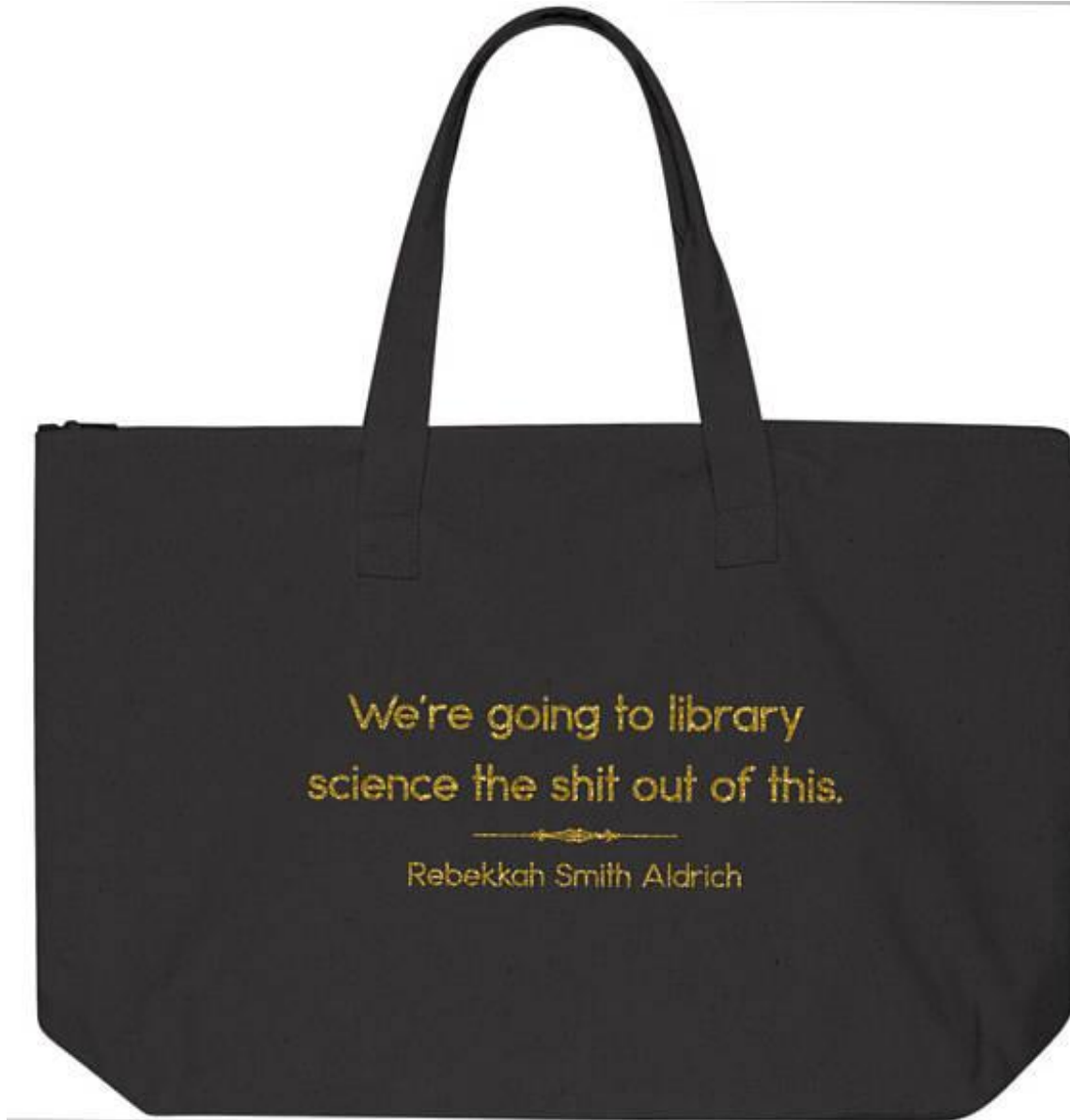


**HOPE**

# HOPEPUNK

“Weaponized Optimism”

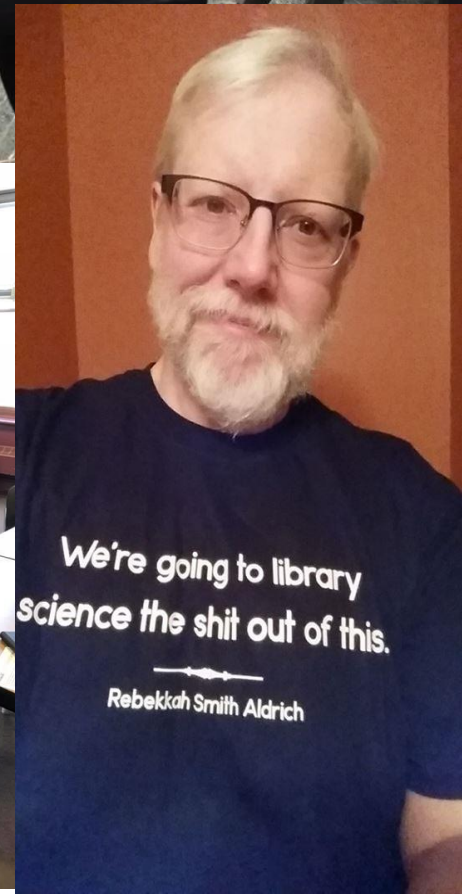
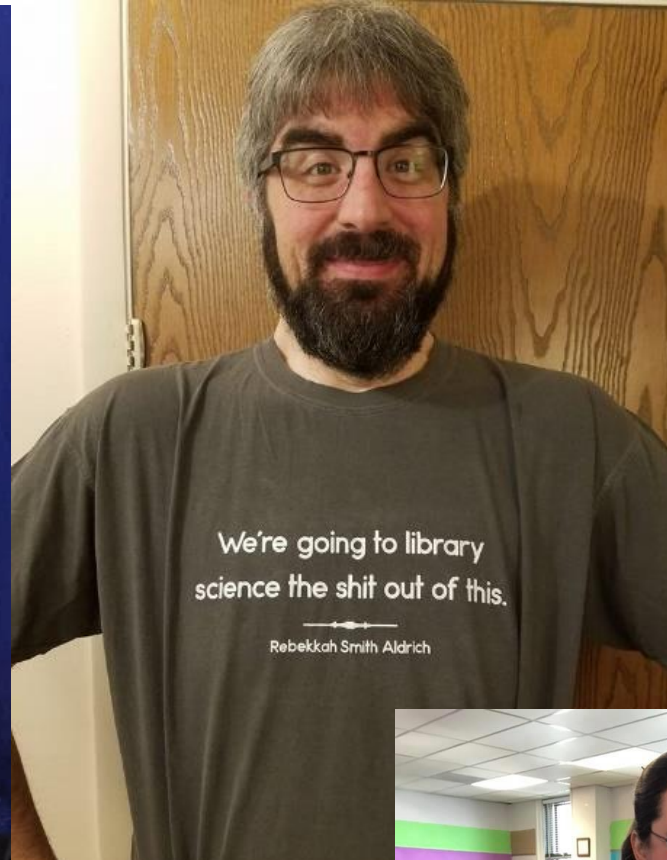




We're going to library  
science the shit out of this.

Rebekkah Smith Aldrich









**Sustainability = Core Value**



## VENN DIAGRAM DEPICTING THE DEFINITION OF THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE









World Happiness Report

2020

## Four Pillars

- Sustainable and Equitable  
Socio-Economic Development
- Environmental Conservation
- Preservation and Promotion of Culture
- Good Governance





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



**There is no climate justice  
without racial justice.**





Social Cohesion

# The Wellbeing Project





Catalyst &  
Convener

# The Mindset List: Classes of 2022, 2023, 2024

- Nearly half of their generation is composed of people of color
- Their generation will constitute one-quarter of the U.S. population
- They have always been concerned about catching the West Nile virus
- Most of them will rent, not buy, their textbooks
- The Prius has always been on the road in the U.S.
- Bonefish Grill has always been serving sustainable seafood.
- Environmental disasters such as the BP Deepwater Horizon, and the coal sludge spill in Martin City, Ky., have always exceeded the Exxon Valdez oil spill.
- **Incoming students are keenly aware of the major threats to the health of our society created by both an international pandemic and the global climate crisis, while at the same time, the value of science in our national dialogue is increasingly questioned.**

**68% of students** report researching the **commitment to sustainability** of the schools they are considering.



# The Value of Sustainability in Higher Education

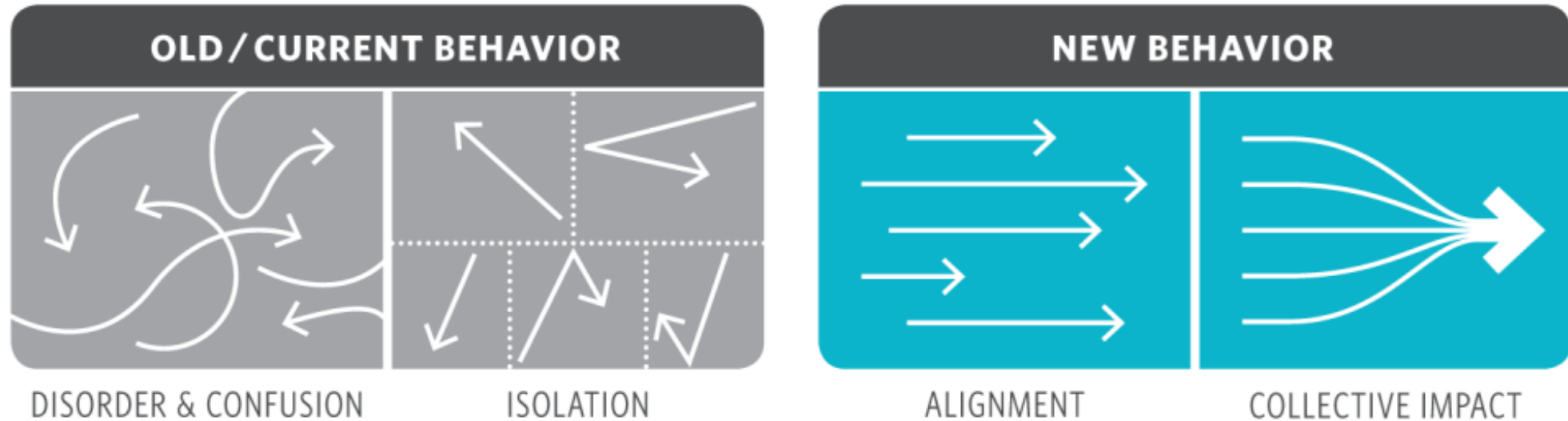
1. Sustainability education **prepares students for career success and responsible citizenship.**
2. Sustainability **improves organizational efficiency, decreases operational costs and reduces risk.**
3. Sustainability **catalyzes increased giving and new funding sources.**
4. Sustainability helps **attract, retain and motivate** top students and employees.
5. Sustainability **strengthens community relationships and facilitates new partnerships.**
6. Sustainability research and education **demonstrates relevance in addressing grand challenges and helps unify the campus around a shared sense of purpose.**

# **Libraries**

**as Sustainability Leaders on Campus.**

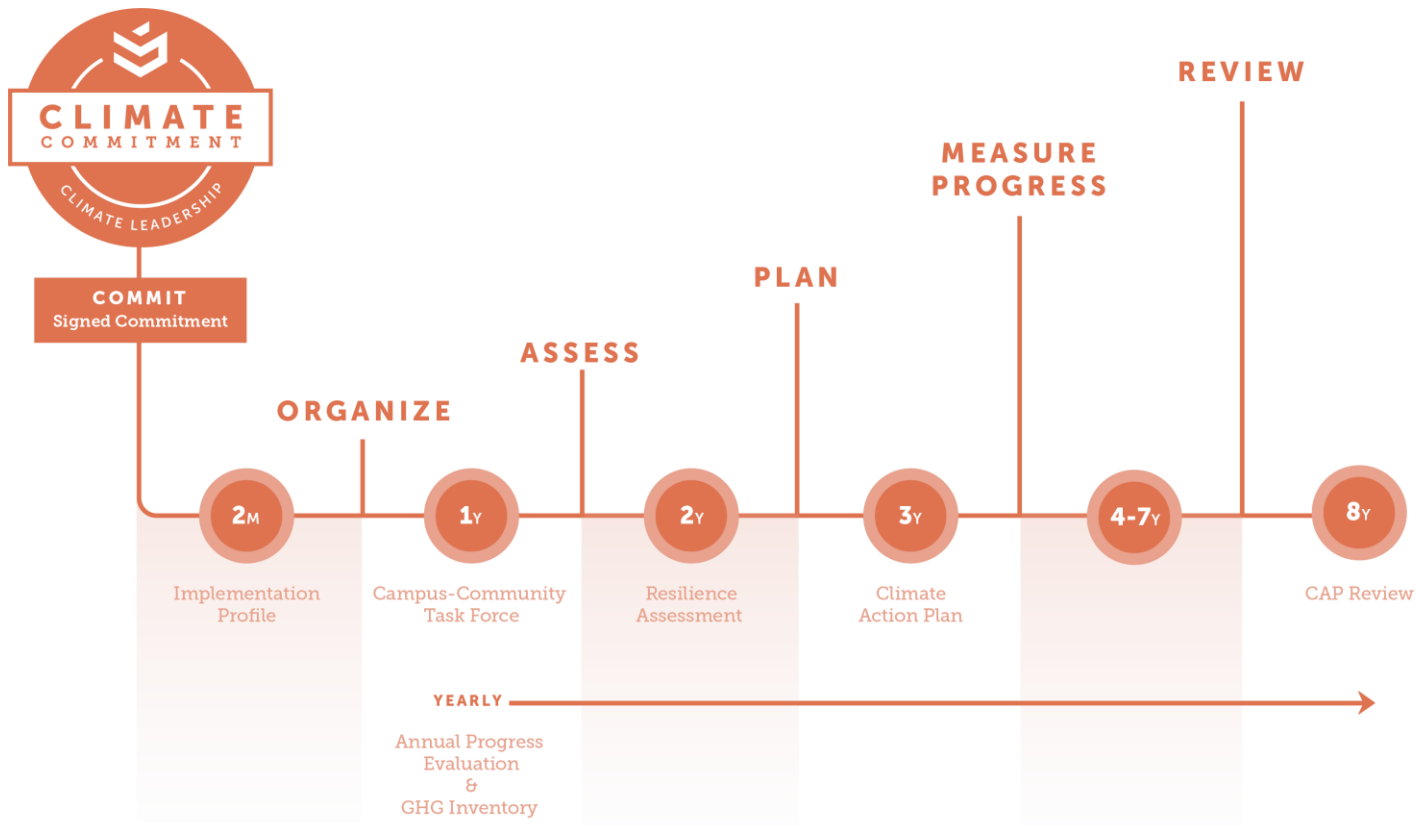


CENTER FOR THE  
**FUTURE OF  
LIBRARIES**  
ALA American Library Association



Graphic: AllHandsRaised.org





## The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System

(STARS) is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.



# Michigan State University



## *Library Environmental Committee*

- Increased recycling rates in the library;
- Decreased energy use;
- 100 % landfill diversion rate for materials deaccessioned from the library collection; and
- Pilot program collecting compost from both public areas and office spaces.



# University of Massachusetts Amherst

- Integration of sustainability across the curriculum
- Modeling green practices
- Library Sustainability Fund
  - Undergraduate Sustainability Research Awards

University *of*  
Massachusetts  
Amherst

# UC San Diego

- Library Sustainability Committee
  - Staff Sustainability Network
  - Green Office Certification
- Staff “Green Training”
- DIY Makers’ Day
- Loaner Cup Cart
- 6 bottle refill stations



“Greening the Mothership”



# Advice from UC San Diego's Team

- Dream big and plan big.
- Be flexible and persistent.
- We need one another.
- Share your accomplishments.



USD Libraries Earth Month Event





# Make-a-Thon

Library +  
Sustainability Office +  
University Housing

North Carolina State University



# Suffolk County Libraries Help Create Face Masks for Hospitals

ADVERTISEMENT

## 3D Printers from Suffolk Libraries Being Used to Help Create Face Shields

By Emma Clark News, Patch Contributor  
Mar 28, 2020 8:48 am ET

Like 135 Share

Reply



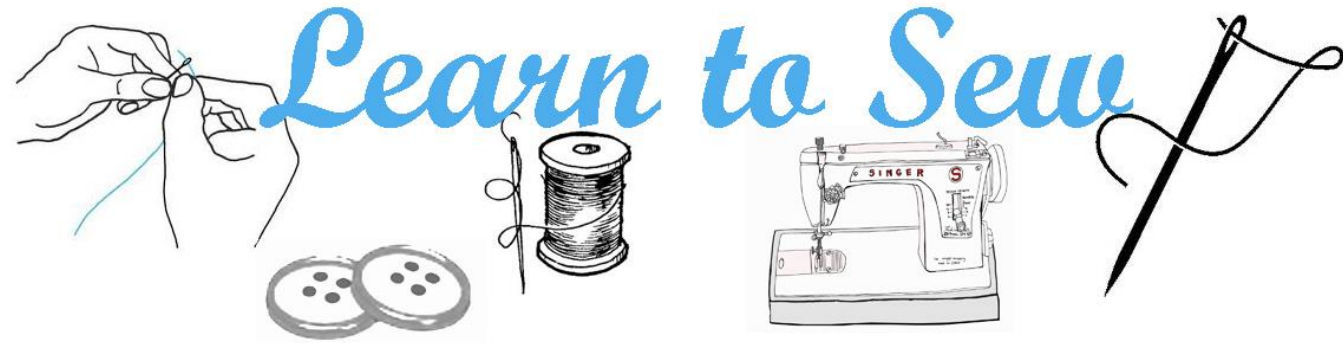
SCLS auditorium with printers. (Suffolk Cooperative Library System)



### Masks Save Lives!

We are a community of people who have come together to make masks for our community and our medical workers on the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic

# Self-Sufficiency





Backpacks free with library card.



Butterfield's Hiking & Camping  
COLLECTIONS  
butterfieldlibrary.org



Let's go bird watching.



Binoculars free with library card.

Butterfield's Hiking & Camping  
COLLECTIONS  
butterfieldlibrary.org



## HIKING

Borrow a backpack and fill it with ...



Water Bottle (refillable)



LifeStraw Water Filtration



Compass



Emergency Shelter Tent



East Hudson/Northern New York Map



Harriman-Bear Mountain Trails New York



Catskill Trails New York/New Jersey Map



LED Flashlight



Fire Starter



Sunscreen & Insect Repellent Foil Packets



First Aid Case with Zipper



Emergency Whistle



Shock-Resistant Adjustable Trekking Pole  
and Hiking Staff Red, 43-Inch



Snake bite kits



10x42 Lightweight Compact Binoculars

## COOLER

Coleman 120 Quart Cooler

- Keeps ice up to 6 days at temperatures up to 32 °C (90 °F)
- Holds 204 cans
- Leak-resistant channel drain for easy draining without tilting the cooler
- Have-A-Seat Lid supports up to 250 lbs. for a place to sit and rest
- EZ-Clean top uses a smoother surface that easily wipes clean



## CAMPING

Coleman 8 Person Tent



- Built-in closet with shelves and hanger bar to organize gear and clothes
- Up to 55% faster setup and 75% more water-resistant than a comparable standard Coleman tent
- Fast pitch system with pre-attached, color-coded poles and hub, easy setup in about 9 minutes
- Weathertec system - patented welded floors and inverted seams help keep water out
- Tent is 13 ft. 6 in. X 9 ft./6 ft. 4 inches - center height with a 2 x 2 ft. closet



# Repair Café

Toss it? No way!



**What do you do with a chair that has a loose leg?  
A toaster that doesn't work anymore?  
Don't throw them away, bring them to Repair Café!**

This neighborhood initiative promotes repair as an alternative to tossing things out. Anyone can bring their broken, but cherished, items to be fixed on the spot for FREE with the help of volunteer repair coaches. Limit of 2 items per household please.

Here are some ideas of items you can bring to be fixed:

-  Small Electric Appliances
-  Furniture/Wooden Objects
-  Clothing/Textiles
-  Jewelry
-  Dolls/Toys
-  Watches/Clocks
-  Bicycles
-  Ceramics
-  Small Mechanical Items (no gas engines)

**Saturday, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00AM-2:00PM**  
McChesney Room @ Central Library

Kids can explore how things work at the take-apart table. Coffee and refreshments will be served.  
Interested in volunteering? Email Dave West at [westfir50@gmail.com](mailto:westfir50@gmail.com) • More info about Repair Café? Visit [repaircafe.org](http://repaircafe.org)



**Schenectady County Public Library**  
99 Clinton Street • Schenectady, NY 12305  
518.388.4511 [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org)



# Acute Community Resilience

- Until Help Arrives Training
- Citizen Corps
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Youth Preparedness
- Prepareathon

<https://www.ready.gov/get-involved>



**FEMA**

- ✓ **Lead by example.**
- ✓ **Focus on outcomes.**
- ✓ **Work with like-minded partners.**



# Want to make the world suck less?



THE NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE



# Sustainable Library Certification Program



**Sustainable  
Libraries  
Initiative**

<https://sustainablelibrariesinitiative.org/>

# Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MLS, LEED AP

Rebekkah@SustainableLibraries.org | @Rebekkah



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

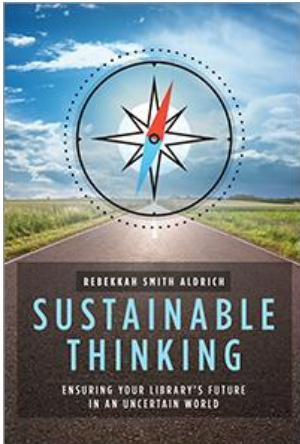
Co-Founder, Sustainable Libraries Initiative, **New York Library Association**

Co-Chair, Special Task Force on Sustainability, **American Library Association**

Member, Center for the Future of Libraries Advisory Group, **American Library Association**

Sustainability Columnist, **Library Journal**

### Author



Thank You