



# Building Resilient Communities



## Landscape Survey

The Building Resilient Communities team conducted a landscape survey of public libraries to assess opinions, knowledge, and current library trends around climate change, environmental justice, and community health topics. Highlights from this survey are shared in this document. Funding provided by the National Science Foundation under Grant 2314180. IRB oversight provided by Aspire IRB.

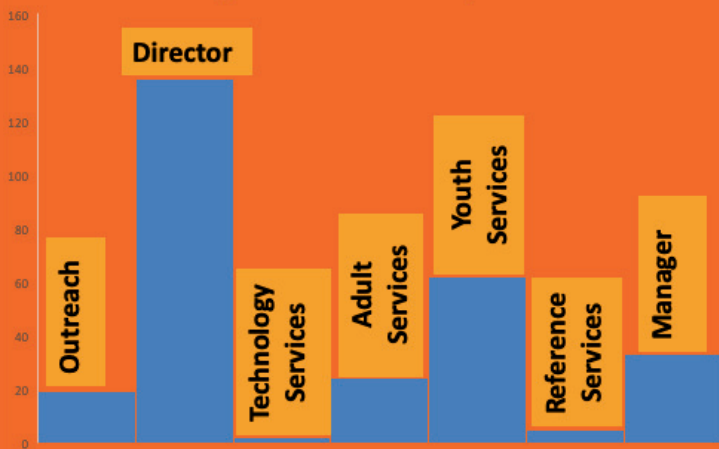
## Symposium

The Space Science Institute, in partnership with WebJunction, Informal Learning Dynamics and the University of North Carolina Greensboro also hosted a symposium with leaders from the library, public health, and climate science communities to develop next steps for action in public libraries and their communities.



## Survey Respondents

### Library Role of Respondent



This survey had 281 respondents, compared to over 1,000 for similar length surveys. Many staff reached out and expressed discomfort at talking about these issues on a work computer.

77% of Respondents are from Rural Areas, and 33% are from Urban/Suburban Areas (Suburban areas category determined by total population served).

## Partnerships

69% of libraries have partnerships focused on health or sustainability. These partnerships had no correlation with library type or size.

## Greater than 70%

More than 70% of surveyed libraries conduct general health programs and programs with outdoor activities, but less than 30% conduct programs with Diagnostic Activities (such as blood drives with blood pressure screenings) or with local environmental Calls to Action.

## Reduce/Reuse/Recycle

While 64% of libraries provide recycling access for patrons, only 10% provided composting access, mostly in urban areas.

## LEED and Green Roof Initiatives

Only 9.8% of surveyed libraries have LEED certification, and 3.1% have a Green Roof. These numbers were strongly correlated with Urban locations.

## Library Staff Know Their Stuff...

96% of respondents were Very Familiar or Familiar with the term Climate Change, and over 80% were Very Familiar or Familiar with the terms Equity and Sustainability, though only 55% were Very Familiar or Familiar with Environmental Justice.



## Health and Climate Programs

Health and Climate programs conducted by responding libraries (without partners, including both one-off and reoccurring activities) included installing solar panels, installing geothermal, hosting butterfly gardens, planting native seeds, seed swaps, first aid classes, upcycling for programs, nutrition and composting classes, walking trails, vehicle charging stations, loaning exercise equipment, and joining the Sustainable Library Initiative.



## But They're Less Confident in Sharing It

60% of respondents believe it is within the role of public libraries to discuss climate change with their community (35% were unsure), but only 2.9% disagreed this was within their role. 75% feel safe talking about climate change with colleagues, but only 51% within their community.



