



THE 2025 SAWYER FREE LIBRARY

Building a Sustainable Future



THE 2025 SAWYER FREE LIBRARY: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The 2025 Sawyer Free Library presents a holistic approach to sustainability.

The combination of the building's sustainability features, its green operations and educational programming, along with its capacity as a physical and social climate response center, present a powerful demonstration of how we can mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Every action we take individually and collectively toward making our environment resilient and sustainable is a step toward a net zero impact future.

Together, we can preserve the one planet we have to live on for ourselves and future generations.

- Jenny Benedict, Library Director



This project integrates three distinct structures with complete renovations of the Library's 1976 and 1913 buildings and an expansion of the footprint with a new 14,000 sq. ft. addition.

The 2025 Sawyer Free Library is a next generation building and presents a leading example of sustainability for public buildings on Cape Ann and the North Shore.



"The 2025 Sawyer Free Library makes Gloucester a leader in sustainable and renewable energy efforts. It is the first public building on Cape Ann serviced by an all-electric heat pump system powered by onsite renewable energy and puts Gloucester in the top 1% of public libraries across the Commonwealth." - *City of Gloucester Mayor Greg Verga*



SOLAR PV SYSTEM

ALL ELECTRIC HVAC SYSTEMS

MOTORIZED SHADES

UNDERGROUND RAINWATER COLLECTION



PERMEABLE PAVINGS RAINWATER IRRIGATION

SMART LIGHTING CONTROLS LED LIGHT FIXTURES

WATER EFFICIENT FIXTURES

NATIVE PLANTINGS

E-BIKE RACKS

EV LEVEL 2 CHARGING STATIONS

The 2025 Sawyer Free Library is a leading example for our City and the Commonwealth on how we can design and operate a building for efficient consumption and generation of energy and water."

2025 SAWYER FREE LIBRARY SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

The LEED Gold building will be served by common building systems with advanced sustainability features and enhanced commissioning. It is designed for efficient consumption, generation and storage of energy and water.



Energy:

The 2025 Sawyer Free Library aims to achieve zero-net energy through a three-pronged approach: reduce and control use through energy-efficient features; generate renewable energy onsite through solar; and purchase additional electricity from a 100% renewable clean energy source.

Eliminate fossil fuels for the building's site energy

Reduce energy use intensity (EUI) from 85 to below 30



Water & Landscaping:

The 2025 Sawyer Free Library conserves water by increasing the use of rainwater for outside purposes and installing water-efficient features to reduce and control use of drinking water.

Reduce potable water consumption by 30%

Eliminate domestic water for outdoor use

Plant native trees, shrubs and grasses



Transportation:

The 2025 Sawyer Free Library provides amenities for bikes, e-bikes and electric vehicles.

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles

2025 SAWYER FREE LIBRARY OPERATIONS

The Library's Green Building Operations are a commitment to ongoing environmentally sustainable practices. The implementation of "green" practices save energy, conserve water, reduce waste and support healthy work and public spaces.

Energy and Water Use: Dashboards monitoring energy and water usage will be reviewed on a regular schedule and analyzed to keep consumption within targets.

Buying Green: Environmentally responsible products and products containing recycled material will be prominent criteria in the selection of materials and services.

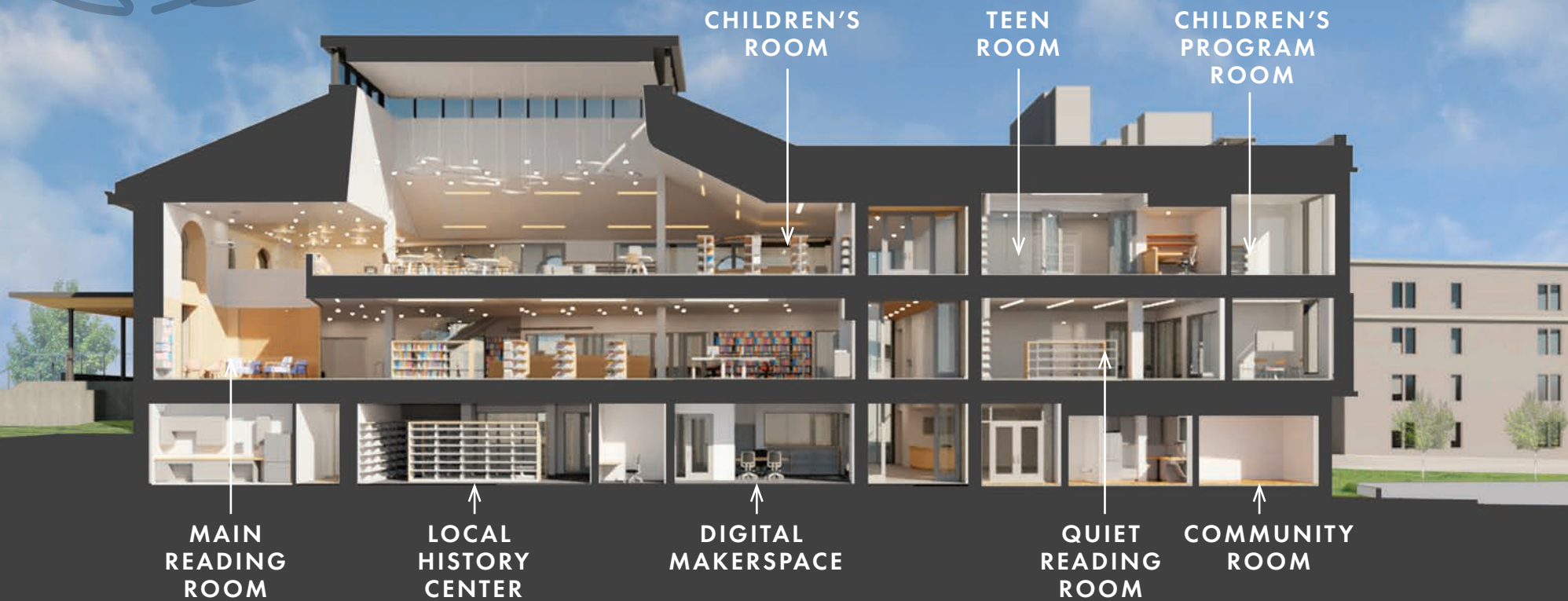
Ocean Friendly: By some estimates, the world's oceans will contain more plastic than fish by weight by 2050. The library will reduce its use of single use plastics and encourage use of reusable bags and bottles.

Zero waste: The construction and operation of the library will follow zero-waste principles where all eligible solid wastes are recycled to eliminate the amount of garbage and toxins disposed in a landfill.

Housekeeping: A healthy environment for all occupants will be maintained by eliminating products containing hazardous contaminants that impact air quality, human health, building finishes, building systems and landscape.



“Fostering climate literacy is a pressing need of our time. We will be a climate literate community when everyone has a basic understanding of the climate system and considers the natural and human-caused factors that affect it when making decisions for everyday life.” - Sawyer Free Library President, Mern Sibley



“Both the building and the Library’s associated educational programming are a model and an inspiration for the entire community and beyond of how we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.”

- Sawyer Free Library Capital Projects Chair, Simon Paddock.

2025 SAWYER FREE LIBRARY COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Library services reach people of all ages and from all different backgrounds. Our focus on educational resources and programs are a platform for sharing information and introducing new ways of thinking and doing.

Displays: Prominent exhibitions, displays and signage in the building and online will showcase the Library and the community's progress toward increasing energy efficiency, decreasing climate change impacts and protecting the environment.

Collections: Our physical and digital collections for adults, teens and children feature theoretical, factual and innovative information about the ecological challenges of our era and solutions for our future.

Children's Programs: In the new Children's Program Room and Teen Creation Space, Library staff will deliver hands-on experiences and interactive demonstrations. While teaching STEM vocabulary, concepts and skills, these programs are above all designed to spark kids' imaginations and be fun.

Adult Programs: The new Community Room with its state-of-the-art presentation technology will host presentations and talks by professionals in the field and community experts. The flexible, 100-seat space will bring like-minded adults together for lively discussions that will inspire new initiatives and collective action.

THE 2025 SAWYER FREE LIBRARY'S ROLE IN SURVIVING CLIMATE CHANGE

The building is a safe and accessible place downtown for residents and visitors that is resilient in the face of severe weather and damages to our built infrastructure. Our staff are trusted second responders who are masters in helping people to navigate critical information and services, and mobilizing people to work together.

Climate Controlled Refuge: The building's envelope and systems are built to be resilient to extreme outdoor temperatures, poor air quality, high winds and heavy precipitation.

Citizen Gathering Place: In the face of disasters that require a community-wide response, the 2025 Sawyer Free Library provides a place for residents to meet and make plans for assisting those in need.

Communications Hub: The Library specializes in building and maintaining long-term relationships with residents and community groups. With close to 50% of Gloucester residents holding a Library card, we have a broader social reach than any other single organization.

Wired for Connectivity: Powered by high speed fiber cable, the 2025 Sawyer Free Library's WiFi network can host 2,000 simultaneous devices.

Reliable information: Library staff are information professionals with a unique skill set critical to dissipating misinformation and disinformation in crisis situations.

Resource Sharing: Disruption from weather events brings unpredictable scarcities. The Library is capable of pivoting quickly to gather limited supplies and share them through a central distribution point.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION


CLIMATE ADAPTATION



All Electric HVAC
Energy Efficient Light Fixtures
Smart Controls
Solar Power
Renewable Energy
Water Conservation
Native Landscape
Low Carbon Transportation

Citizen Response
Climate Controlled Refuge
Community Connections
Public Wi-Fi Connectivity
Reliable Information
Resource Sharing

"Many scientists and climate researchers believe that we are now beyond the tipping point. Funding the 2025 Sawyer Free Library to be the City's first building powered by renewable clean energy is a great strategic investment our community can make to education and inspire residents, business leaders and elected officials." - Sustainability Business Leader, Tim Greiner.



"A renovated, sustainable Sawyer Free Library is a shining example that, as the earth continues to warm, we can turn our dreams of facing this daunting challenge into reality."

Award-winning Environmentalist and Science Writer, Deborah Cramer

**For more information about 2025 Sawyer Free Library:
Building a Sustainable Future,
visit: www.sawyerfreelibrary/sustainability.org**