

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



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Erie County Public Library receives stipend from national organization to support programs about climate change

Erie, PA — Erie County Public Library has received a \$500 stipend from Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change, an initiative of the American Library Association (ALA) that will help libraries engage their communities in programs and conversations on the climate crisis.

Resilient Communities programming begins Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 6 p.m. with “Climate Change and the Great Lakes” presented by Amber Stilwell, research coordinator for the Erie Regional Science Consortium. This virtual program will focus on how climate change affects the Great Lakes region, especially Erie, and will talk about dangerous algae blooms and water quality in Lake Erie.

Additional programs include a children’s book box featuring “The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind” by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, with activities focusing on energy, to be released in March. The kit is for kids ages 9 to 13. There will be two programs on recycling offered by Erie County Recycling Coordinator Lynn Armel and Prism Recycling and a documentary viewing with discussion of “Decoding the Weather Machine” led by Dr. Chris Magoc of Mercyhurst University.

A second part of the grant is extreme weather preparedness. WJET’s Tom Atkins, a trained meteorologist who can speak about weather, but not climatology, will discuss how to prepare for extreme weather events that affect the Erie area. The library hopes this will become a yearly program.

The library will use its \$500 stipend to support programming and collection items related to climate change and extreme weather. Programs will be offered from February through April and will culminate in three programs during Earth Week, the last week of April. For more information and a calendar of upcoming library programs, visit events.erielibrary.org.

Resilient Communities strives to raise awareness and provide accurate information about the climate change crisis to the public through libraries. The pilot project has been funded by a generous grant from Andrew and Carol Phelps, the parents of a public librarian and a library master’s student.

About the American Library Association

The American Library Association (ALA) is the foremost national organization providing resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services. For more than 140 years, the ALA has been the trusted voice for academic, public, school, government and special libraries, advocating for the profession and the library’s role in enhancing learning and ensuring access to information for all. For more information, visit ala.org.

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