



## Sustainable Landcare Accreditation Policies

### Accreditation Tiers

#### **SLA Business Member, \$150 per year**

For landscaping professionals and business owners who want marketing exposure on our website and beyond.

Benefits (for one calendar year):

- Phipps provides accredited professionals with free marketing visibility including online, advertising, public relations, social media and targeted events to promote your services.
- Each business accredited partner receives a Sustainable Landcare Accreditation Marketing Toolkit including accreditation seal logos and vehicle magnet to promote your accreditation and distinguish your services.
- Member rates on all Phipps adult education courses.

Responsibilities:

- Year 1: Attend SLA training, pass accreditation exam, pay accreditation fee & pledge to follow NOFA standards.
- Year 2 and beyond:
  - Earn 4 continuing education credits each year.
  - Credit opportunities include some of Phipps' certificate classes, Phipps Native Plant and Sustainability Conference, and our Summer Short Course. Additional opportunities are available and need to be approved by SLA Credit Committee. Pre-approved credit opportunities will be shared with you periodically by Phipps Sustainable Landcare Coordinator.
  - Credits may be earned for no cost by teaching a class, presenting to the community about sustainable landcare, or volunteering to table at public events and promote Phipps SLA. Credits must be approved.

#### **SLA Advocate, \$75 per year**

A reduced rate for professionals (non-profits, government workers, and educators) who want to maintain their credential and support our mission, but don't need our marketing services. This category may be used by employees of a landscaping business which employs multiple SLA Professionals, as only one person needs a business membership to maintain your company benefits.

Benefits (for one calendar year):

- Use of the SLA logo in your online or print marketing.
- Use of the name Sustainable Landcare Accredited Professional.
- Member rates on Phipps adult education courses.

Responsibilities: Same as Business Tier, included above.

### Re-accreditation Guidelines

Phipps Sustainable Landcare Accreditation (SLA) status is renewable on an annual basis upon submission of evidence of the required number of approved continuing education credit hours, a signed *Re-accreditation Form*, and the required fee which goes to support the SLA program.

The accreditation year follows the calendar year. Please note that our accreditation deadline always falls on the first of the year. All SLA Professionals, including those who were newly accredited in this calendar year, must have proof of credits and payment postmarked by January 1, of the following year, in order to re-accredit for that year. There is a 30 day grace period before a \$25 late fee is charged.

To re-accredit, the professional must provide the following by January 1:

- A completed *Re-accreditation Form* with documentation verifying 4 (four) hours of approved continuing education credits OR 2 (two) hours of teaching sustainable landcare workshops or trainings. Teaching credits must be approved in advance by the SLA Credit Committee (see [Credit Approval](#)).
- Acceptable documentation includes: instructor signed brochure, class receipt, or copy of certificate.
- Pay fee online: <https://www.phipps.conservatory.org/landcare>.

**Note:** Business level accredited professionals who leave a company within an accreditation year will be required to pay for a new accreditation in order to receive the accreditation benefits for their new business. Contact Phipps Sustainable Landcare Coordinator for details.

### Lapsed Accreditation

**Within the First Year:** Professionals must pay a late fee of \$25 in addition to the above requirements, making the total due \$100 for an advocate SLA professional and \$175 for a business SLA professional. This payment must be submitted with a signed *Re-accreditation Form* with evidence of 4 approved continuing education credits. All benefits will be restored.

**After One Year:** Professionals must pay a late fee of \$25 and acquire an additional 2 hours of approved credit, making the total due \$100 and \$175 for supporting SLA Professionals and business SLA Professionals, respectively. Payment must be submitted with a signed *Re-accreditation Form* with evidence of 6 approved continuing education credits. All benefits will be restored.

**After Two Years:** Professionals must retake the Sustainable Landcare Exam, given at the end of the Accreditation Course, in addition to the requirements included above (\$100 or \$175 fee, and 6 approved continuing education credits).

### Credit Approval

Please complete a *Credit Approval Form* to request approval for continuing education credits for the Phipps SLA program. Submit credit approval form via email (and send questions) to [jolshock@phipps.conservatory.org](mailto:jolshock@phipps.conservatory.org) at least 2-4 weeks before the event or program as additional questions may be required for credit approval.

For FULL Credit (one credit hour/hour of education):

- Any workshop must enhance or expand upon the scope of the Standards and/or course material.
- Organic management only is discussed; prohibited items are not discussed.

For HALF Credit (1/2 credit hour/hour of education):

- The content enhances or expands upon the Standards and/or course materials; prohibited items may be discussed but are not recommended as a preferred practice, and organic alternatives are equally discussed.
- IMP that stresses organic, ecological/natural methods and materials without recommending prohibited items as preferred practice.
- Horticulture/gardening courses not specifically addressing sustainability.

NOT ELIGIBLE For Credit (Zero credit-hours per hour of education):

- Any program that promotes any prohibited substance or does not otherwise abide by the above.
- Any program that is self-promoting, or designed to sell products, methods or materials, whether overtly or covertly.