



Sustainable Landcare Reaccreditation Policy

Reaccreditation 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 [Reaccreditation Form](#), and the required reaccreditation 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 Jan. 1 of the following year in order to reaccredit for that year. There is a 30-day grace period before a \$25 late fee is charged.

To reaccredit, the professional must provide the following by Jan. 1:

- A completed [Reaccreditation Form](#) with documentation verifying four hours of approved continuing education credits OR 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 any of the following: an instructor-signed brochure, a class receipt or a copy of a certificate of completion.
- Submit [Reaccreditation Form](#) and documentation [online with payment](#) (\$75 or \$150 as detailed in [Reaccreditation Tiers](#)) OR mail with check (\$75 or \$150 as detailed below) made out to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, 1059 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232.
- Submit a [Listing Form](#) to update your listing in the Sustainable Landcare Services online guide and brochure.

Reaccreditation Tiers

\$150 per year for the SLA Business Member

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

Benefits:

- Phipps provides accredited professionals with free marketing visibility including online, advertising, public relations, social media and targeted events to promote your services.
- Each accredited partner receives a Sustainable Landcare Accreditation Marketing Toolkit with the turnkey resources you need - from accreditation seal logos and images to press release template and social media ideas - to promote your accreditation and distinguish your services.
- Member rates on all Phipps adult education courses.

Responsibilities:

- 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. [Find pre-approved credit opportunities here.](#)
- 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 in advance.

\$75 per year for the SLA Supporter

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:

- 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:

- Earn 4 continuing education credits each year.
- 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 in advance.

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 a supporter SLA Professional and \$175 for a business SLA Professional. This payment must be submitted with a signed [Reaccreditation Form](#) with evidence of four approved continuing education credits. All benefits will be restored.

After One Year: Professionals must pay a late fee of \$25 and acquire an additional two 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 [Reaccreditation 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 six 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 form online or email requests (and questions) to 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 (½ 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.
- Integrated pest management 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.