City of Lincoln
LIBRARIES

DESIGNING WITH PURPOSE:

SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES FOR THE LINCOLN CENTRAL LIBRARY

The adaptive reuse of the Lincoln Central Library will bring together a wide range of sustainability strategies to transform an aging civic asset into a high-performing, low-carbon, people-centered hub for downtown Lincoln. We will explore the following features:

Building Reuse and Carbon Stewardship

We will preserve and reuse the existing concrete structure, minimizing demolition waste and leveraging its embodied carbon. A new mass timber addition will provide a renewable, carbon-sequestering structure that adds warmth and biophilic value.

Multi-Modal Accessibility and Pedestrian Activation

We will support walkability and transit access by connecting the site to a bike path, major bus stop, and structured parking. The design will activate O Street with a human-scaled, accessible pedestrian zone that links the library to the broader community.

High-Performance Envelope

We will introduce a reimagined, insulated façade, triple-pane glazing, and consider bird-safe glass technology to improve energy efficiency, reduce thermal loss, and enhance occupant comfort.

Efficient HVAC and Operational Flexibility

We will use a low-pressure raised access floor system to deliver conditioned air at the occupant level, increasing energy efficiency and allowing for long-term adaptability.

Daylight Optimization

We will conduct daylight analysis to guide window placement and shading strategies that maximize natural light and views while minimizing glare and solar heat gain.

Biophilic and Healthy Materials

We will incorporate indoor vegetation, exposed mass timber, and natural daylight to create a calming environment. We will specify locally sourced, low-VOC, Red List–free, and durable materials to improve indoor air quality, reduce embodied carbon, and ensure low maintenance.

Green Roof and Heat Island Reduction

We will explore the implementation of a green roof to reduce heat island effects, manage stormwater, and provide ecological and aesthetic benefits.

On-Site Renewable Energy

We will research the integration of photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate renewable energy and reduce the building's operational carbon footprint.

Post-Occupancy Optimization

We will incorporate a Building Management System (BMS) to optimize performance based on real-time usage patterns and occupant needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: KIM MORROW | KCMORROW@LINCOLN.NE.GOV | 402-441-5633

Water Conservation

We will install low-flow plumbing fixtures to reduce potable water use and support water efficiency. The green roof will further aid in stormwater management by reducing runoff into city systems.

Electric Vehicle Charging

Two EV chargers are available for library patron use in the Center Park Garage.

People-Centric and Health-Promoting

We will design delightful, light-filled circulation spaces that encourage movement and support mental and physical health. A café or coffee shop will offer healthy food options to enhance well-being and create a welcoming civic environment.

Resiliency and Equity

We will position the library as a resilient civic resource that promotes community health and ensures equitable access to learning, technology, and connecting with one another.

Performance Metrics and Certification

We will establish Energy Use Intensity (EUI) targets early in design and pursue a sustainability certification pathway that aligns with City climate goals and community values.

Long-Lasting Community Asset

We will design for durability, adaptability, and long-term relevance—ensuring the library remains a vital, inclusive, and evolving public resource for generations.

Design Timeline and Public Input:

We will conduct the design phase from **August 2025 to June 2026,** establishing sustainability goals and performance strategies during this time. Community members will be invited to participate in a **public sustainability workshop in fall 2025** to provide input at a key decision-making moment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: KIM MORROW | KCMORROW@LINCOLN.NE.GOV | 402-441-5633