# 2022 Sustainability Summit

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ABOUT THE SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

For the first time, we are bringing together University of Nebraska sustainability leaders and stakeholders to share with and listen to one another—in the hopes of prompting growth and understanding in our sustainable initiatives and visions.

This annual gathering will elevate effective, efficient, economic, equitable, and responsible use of our resources in order to meet our current needs—while considering the long-term implications of our choices on future generations.

LOCATION AND TIME

Monday, November 21, 2022
12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.
Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center
2021 Transformation Drive Lincoln, NE 68508

EVENT CONTACTS

Submitting Questions to Panels

Click here to submit a question to the members of our panel discussions.

Post-Event Survey

Thank you for attending the inaugural NU System Sustainability Summit! We welcome all feedback on this year’s event and how we can improve the summit in future years. Click here to participate in our post-event survey.
2022 SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

12:00-1:00
Sustainability Showcase

1:00-1:10
Welcome: NU System Senior Vice President/CFO Chris Kabourek and UNL Chancellor Ronnie Green

1:10-1:20
Address: NU System President Ted Carter

1:20-2:00
Keynote: “Saving the Planet in Lincoln, NE: Clean Hydrogen” by Rob Hanson (Monolith)

2:00-2:45
Campus Highlights Panel: Climate Resiliency Across the System
Featuring: Morgan Hartman (UNL Sustainability Coordinator), Jake Drake (UNL Student Regent), Jerrod Bley (UNMC Sustainability Manager), Pranita Devaraju (UNMC Student Delegates Co-President), AT Miller (UNO Chief Diversity Officer), Tori Sims (UNO Student Regent), Michael Cremers (UNK Facilities Director), Emily Saadi (UNK Student Regent)
Moderator: Dr. Martha Durr (State Climatologist)

2:45-3:20
Mini-discussion Internal Panel: The Well-Being of Nebraskans & Conservation of our Resources
Featuring: Dr. Jesse Bell (UNMC), Dr. Tala Awada (UNL), Dr. Erin Bass (UNO), Dr. Jason Hawkins (UNL)
Moderator: Doug Carlson (Assistant Vice President and Chief Procurement Officer)

3:20-3:55
Mini-discussion External Panel: Powering & Protecting Nebraskans, Today & Tomorrow
Featuring: Courtney Dentlinger (NPPD), Brad Underwood (OPPD), Marc Shkolnick (LES)
Moderator: Chris Kabourek (Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer)

3:55-4:00 P.M.
Closing Remarks: Roni Miller, Administrative Fellow, Office of the President
UNL Environmental Studies, Environmental Studies Student Advisory Committee (ESSAC), and Project Energy
Website

Omaha Heat Watch Project: UNMC – Climate, Water and Health Program
Website

UNO Botanical Society
Instagram

Sustain UNL
SustainUNL NvolveU Account
Instagram

EarthStock
Website

Hydroponics for Growing Populations – Educating the Future Generation of Food Production Specialists

DivestNU
Instagram

Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
Website

UNO Office of Sustainability
Website

Water Quality Improvement Project at Cooper YMCA
Website

UNL Office of Sustainability
Website

Healthy Earth Alliance
Facebook
TED CARTER

Ted Carter is president of the University of Nebraska System, a four-campus institution that enrolls nearly 50,000 students and employs 16,000 faculty. He serves as chief spokesman and chief executive officer for the system, which operates on a $3 billion annual budget and includes a flagship Big Ten institution, a world-renowned academic health sciences center, Division I athletics programs, and preeminent institutes focused on water and agriculture, national security and defense, infectious disease and early childhood education.

Carter brought with him a distinguished record in education, partnerships and military service, having come to Nebraska from the U.S. Naval Academy, his alma mater, where he was the longest continuously-serving superintendent since the Civil War. Under his leadership, the Naval Academy achieved a No. 1 national ranking and new records in student success and diversity. Carter previously was president of the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. A retired Vice Admiral with 38 years of service, Carter has logged more than 6,300 flying hours and holds the American record for carrier-arrested landings.

Carter earned his bachelor’s degree in physics and oceanography from the U.S. Naval Academy, where he played hockey and served as team captain. He is a graduate of the Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) and holds educational credentials from the Navy Nuclear Power School, the U.S. Air Force Air War College, the Naval War College and the Armed Forces Staff College. He recently received the U.S. Naval Academy’s Distinguished Graduate Award in recognition of his military service and leadership.

DR. RONNIE D. GREEN

Dr. Ronnie D. Green is Chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska’s flagship, Land-Grant and Big Ten institution, where he oversees an enrollment of over 25,000 students and 6,000 faculty and staff.

He received BS and MS degrees in animal science from Virginia Tech and Colorado State University, respectively. His doctoral program was completed jointly at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the USDA-ARS U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in animal breeding and genetics.

Green has served on the animal science faculties of Texas Tech University and Colorado State University, and as the national program leader for animal production research for the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service and executive secretary of the White House’s interagency working group on animal genomics within the National Science and Technology Council. Prior to returning to UNL, Green served as a global executive for Pfizer Animal Health’s animal genomics business.

Dr. Green has authored 130 refereed publications and abstracts, nine book chapters and 56 invited symposia papers, and has delivered invited presentations in 43 U.S. states and 21 countries around the world. He is a past-president of both the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) and the National Black and Bridle Club, and has served in a number of leadership positions for the U.S. Beef Improvement Federation, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, National Pork Board, National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences, Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, and Alpha Gamma Rho national fraternity. He currently is a member of a number of boards, including the Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors,
Neogen Corporation, and Supporters of Agricultural Research, and was recently named to the Presidential Forum of the NCAA representing the BIG10 Conference, and an inaugural member of the Division I Board Infractions Process Committee. He was named a fellow of ASAS in 2014 and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2015. In 2017 Dr. Green was honored with the American Society of Animal Science’s Morrison Award, the highest international academic recognition for an animal scientist.

Ronnie and his wife Jane, a double UNL alumna, are the proud parents of four children – Justin, Nate, Kelli and Regan Green – all UNL graduates, and one granddaughter, Charlotte.

CHRIS KABOUREK

Chris Kabourek, a 20-year veteran of the university’s senior leadership team, was named vice president for business and finance and chief financial officer of the University of Nebraska in July 2018. Kabourek brings more than two decades of progressive financial leadership experience at the university, including 11 years as assistant vice president in which he worked closely with executives across and outside the university on budgeting, capital planning, debt financing, accounting, risk management, human resources and benefits, legislative strategy and other areas. He joined NU’s Central Administration office in 1997 as a budget and research analyst. A native of David City, Neb., Kabourek earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Nebraska Wesleyan University and his MBA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

DOUG CARLSON

Doug Carlson is the Assistant Vice President and Chief Procurement Officer and has more than 10 years of experience in government finance and procurement. He joined the University in May 2021. Prior to his university appointment, Carlson served as the State of Nebraska’s Chief Procurement Officer and Deputy Director for the Department of Administrative Services for the state. Carlson also proudly serves in the Nebraska National Guard in Strategic Plans and Programs. During his military service, he co-authored the Air Mobility Plan for nuclear deterrence and global strike. It was recognized by the Air Force Inspector General as the first ever plan of its kind.

ROB HANSON

For over a decade, Rob Hanson has led Monolith as its co-founder and chief executive officer, driving toward the vision of “Building the world’s largest clean hydrogen and materials company.” Headquartered in Lincoln, Monolith uses 100% clean electricity to power the leading next-generation technology for producing low-cost, low-emission hydrogen and carbon black, an essential raw material used in manufacturing everyday rubber and plastic products. Hanson earned a master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University and is a sought-after speaker through the U.S. Department of State and many of the world’s most respected clean energy and materials conferences. Hanson has been a guest lecturer at Stanford University, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Foothill College, and the University of Saskatchewan on topics from thermodynamics to entrepreneurship. Prior to his time at Monolith, Hanson was the global director of product management at AREVA Solar, the solar division of the world’s largest nuclear company.
RONI MILLER

Miller joined the Office of the President in July 2022. She earned bachelor’s degrees in Spanish and Political Science with Distinction from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Honors Program. Miller was a Regents Scholar and an Intelligence Community Scholar. Additionally, she served as Student Regent and Student Body President through ASUN Student Government from 2020-2021. On the Board, she helped to author and pass an Environmental, Social, and Governance (“ESG”) policy. She was involved in ASUN all four years of undergrad, focusing on improving mental health resources and policy to address sexual assault. Prior to joining the Office of the President, she taught English at a public high school in Spain.

DR. MARTHA DURR

In addition to being the State Climatologist, Durr has been a professor of applied climate science for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Natural Resources since 2009. Before beginning her career, Durr earned her bachelor’s degree in Meteorology from North Carolina State University, her master’s degree in Agricultural Meteorology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and her doctorate in Soil Science and Climatology from the University of Minnesota. Having played a role in the publication of numerous articles, Durr’s research interests revolve around climate variability and climate impacts. As the Director of the Nebraska State Climate Office and State Climatologist for Nebraska, Durr works to deliver science-based weather and climate information to help inform decisions across the state. Durr is also a member of the American Association of State Climatologists, the American Geophysical Union, and the American Meteorological Society.

DR. TALA AWADA

Dr. Tala Awada is the Associate Dean in the Agricultural Research Division (ARD) at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR), a Professor of Plant Ecophysiology in the School of Natural Resources, a Fellow of the Robert Daugherty Global Water for Food Institute, and a Fellow of the National Strategic Research Institute (NSRI). She co-leads the Nebraska Long-term Agroecosystem Research (LTAR-ARS/USDA) network site. Her research is transdisciplinary in nature, and focuses on the sustainability, productivity, and resilience of agricultural, grassland and forest ecosystems under climate variability and change and anthropogenic management. She received her PhD in Plant Sciences from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada; MS in Environmental and Renewable Resources from the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Greece; and BS in Agricultural Engineering from the Lebanese University, Lebanon.

DR. JASON HAWKINS

Jason is an assistant professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering with a minor in energy policy from the University of Calgary, staying to earn his master’s degree in Civil Engineering, before earning his Ph.D. in Civil and Mineral Engineering from the University of Toronto. During his time at the University of Calgary, Jason founded the Integrated Infrastructure for Sustainable Cities program. He served as a Transportation & Spatial Economic Modeler for HBA Specto Inc., as well as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Texas at Austin before joining the UNL team. Jason has research interest in the areas of travel demand forecasting, energy and GHG emissions of infrastructure, and emerging mobility, among others.
DR. JESSE BELL

Joining the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 2018 as an associate professor in the Department of Environmental Agricultural & Occupational Health, Bell has since been named the Claire M. Hubbard Professor and Director of the Water, Climate, and Health Program at UNMC. Bell earned his bachelor’s degree from Emporia State University and later his doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. Before joining UNMC, Bell worked in the Biology Department at Wake Forest University, as well as a Research Associate and Research Scholar for North Carolina State University. Bell conducts research on the relationships of extreme weather, climate variability, and climate change on natural and human processes. He hopes this research will lead him to discovering connections between climate and health to better prepare our populations for climate-related disasters. Additionally, Bell is affiliated with the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union.

DR. ERIN BASS

Bass joined the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2014 and currently serves as an associate professor of management in the College of Business Administration and the James R. Schumacher Chair of Ethics. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in strategic management and business ethics. She has also taught in the Executive MBA and Executive Education programs at UNO and the University of Calgary. Earning her doctorate degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bass previously worked as a strategic consultant and speaker for private, public, and non-profit organizations in the Omaha area. She is passionate about research and the practice of stakeholder management and corporate social responsibility. Bass is a member of the Academy of Management and the Strategic Management Society, while also serving as the faculty adviser to Fund for Undergraduate Scholarly Experience (FUSE) and Graduate Research and Creative Activity (GRACA) for students at UNO.

MARC SHKOLNICK

Working for the Lincoln Electric System for over 15 years, Shkolnick oversees the seven-member Energy Services staff. Energy Services developed and launched the Sustainable Energy Program in 2009, which promotes and incentivizes energy efficiency and has engaged over 10,000 customers from residential, commercial, and industrial areas. Before joining LES, Shkolnick earned his bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and later his master’s degree in Higher Education Administration from UNL. He continued working at UNL as an Admissions Representative and within the Nebraska Alumni Association. Shkolnick also briefly worked at Colorado State University as the Executive Director of the University Alumni Association before joining LES in 2007.

BRAD UNDERWOOD

Underwood earned his bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and later went on to receive his MBA from Creighton University. Between degrees, he worked in Lenexa, Kansas, as an Area Business Manager for Kiewit. In his more than nine years with the Omaha Public Power District, Underwood has served as Manager of Nuclear Business Operations, Manager of Treasury, Director of Corporate Planning, Director of Financial Planning and Analysis, and his current position as Vice President. In this position, he is responsible for planning and expanding the transition system of the network to ensure it is meeting sufficient capacity, in addition to leading system planning to achieve the district’s decarbonization goals. Underwood is also a member of the Board of Directors for Together Omaha.
COURTNEY DENTLINGER

Dentlinger has worked for the Nebraska Public Power District for five years. Before ascending to her role of Vice President of Customer Service, she served as the Director of Wholesale Services & External Affairs for NPPD. Dentlinger earned her bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Wayne State College and then received her JD from the George Washington University Law School. Before joining the Nebraska Public Power District, Dentlinger served as the Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the Economic Development Director for the City of Norfolk, and the Executive Director of Development at Northeast Community College. She is currently a member of the Nebraska Economic Developers Association, the American Public Power Association, and President Carter’s Advisory Council.

MORGAN HARTMAN

Hartman was hired as the Sustainability Coordinator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in March of 2022 after serving as the campus recycling coordinator for the previous two years. During that time, Hartman also became the manager of the waste management operation at UNL and served as the acting coordinator for the Office of Sustainability. Hartman earned her bachelor’s degree from UNL in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, while also minoring in Leadership and Communication. As a student, she was involved in ASUN Student Government through the Environmental Leadership Program and served as chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee for two years. Hartman also founded Greeks Go Green, a student organization aimed at fostering a culture of sustainability within the UNL fraternity and sorority life community.

JERROD BLEY

An alumnus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bley earned his bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies, while minoring in Energy Science and Business. He went on to earn his master’s degree in Engineering Management from Montana State University, where he also received multiple renewable energy certifications. In the professional world, Bley has worked on numerous projects. He was a member of a Marine Corps engineering unit and a clean energy project Manager at the Montana Weatherization Training Center. Bley was most recently the clean energy program Director for the Adirondack North County Association, where he helped design and develop programs centered on racial equity, aimed to support an economy that worked for all people. He became the Sustainability Manager at UNMC in fall of 2021.

A.T. MILLER

Joining University of Nebraska at Omaha in early 2022, Miller serves as UNO’s first Chief Diversity Officer. Miller serves on the UNO Leadership team, which oversees a university-wide effort to evaluate existing programs and identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination. Miller holds degrees from Davidson College and has a doctorate degree in American Civilization with an emphasis on African and African American Cultural Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. He had previously served as the Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer at Central Michigan University. Before joining UNO, he served as Associate Vice Provost for Academic Diversity at Cornell University, Faculty Director of the University of Michigan’s Center for Global and Cultural Study, and as head of the Shikokho Secondary School in Kenya. He has been active in AASHE since 2012, and sustainability programs have reported to him at both Central Michigan and UNO.
MICHAEL CREMERS

In addition to being the Sustainability Coordinator for the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Cremers serves as the Director of Facilities and has worked at UNK for almost 20 years. In his time in Kearney, he has held the positions of Event/Move Team Leader, Facilities Systems Specialist, Project Manager/Maintenance Supervisor, and Assistant Director. Before working at UNK, he was a Maintenance Technician for Central Community College, where he earned his associates degree in Information Technology. He then attended UNK, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Management of Information Systems, and later his MBA.

JAKE DRAKE

As a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Drake is majoring in Political Science, with a minor in Business Administration. Very involved on campus, Drake is the President of the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska (ASUN). He is also an OASIS Scholar, has served as chair of ASUN’s campus life and safety committee, as a senator, and as homecoming coordinator. In the professional world, Drake has served as a page in the Nebraska Legislative, as a resident assistant, and worked in the Office of Student Involvement.

EMILY SAADI

Saadi is a senior pre-law student at University of Nebraska at Kearney, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Social Work and Global Peace and Security. A member of the UNK Honors Program, Saadi has also been involved with the Locke and Key Society, Undergraduate Research Fellows, and Pre-Law Society. Among the other things Saadi has served as secretary of Student Senate, public relations chair for Model United Nations, a Chancellor’s Ambassador, and has completed work for the American Democracy Project.

TORI SIMS

Sims is a junior majoring in Sociology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. They have served as the student government Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and as a peer mentor on campus. Additionally, Sims in a member of the Honor’s Program, Alpha Kappa Delta, and is a Thompson Scholar.

PRANITA DEVARAJU

Devaraju is a second-year medical student at University of Nebraska Medical Center with a concentration in health policy. Involved with Student Senate as the Sustainability Liaison, Pranita is also president of her class, co-president of UNMC Student Delegates, and is a student board member of the Nebraska Medical Association. As Sustainability Liaison, she sits on the UNMC Environmental Sustainability Council and participates in the committee developing UNMC’s Climate Action Plan.
2022 SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT
PRESIDENT’S SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The purpose of the President’s Sustainability Council (PSC) is to develop a Sustainability Comprehensive Plan, a priority of the Five-Year Strategy, for the University of Nebraska System in connection with relevant industry standards and provide ongoing strategic recommendations to the President related to the environment and social responsibility. The PSC will use the existing framework of key priorities to collaboratively produce a plan for eventual release in spring of 2023. Members of the President’s Sustainability Council are from all corners of the University of Nebraska System. This includes faculty, staff, and students from all four campuses, Nebraska Extension, and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Doug Carlson (Co-Chair)
Assistant Vice President for Business & Finance, Chief Procurement Officer
University of Nebraska System

Roni Miller (Co-Chair)
Administrative Fellow, Office of the President
University of Nebraska System

Dave Gosselin (Team Lead)
Director of Environmental Studies, UNL Sustainability Initiative; Professor of Earth Science
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Ryan Swanson
Associate Vice President for Facilities, Planning & Capital Programs
University of Nebraska System

Robert Macy
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University of Nebraska at Kearney

Meghan Langel
Director of Operations, Water, Climate & Health Program
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Emira Ibrahimpasic
Associate Professor of Practice and Associate Director of Global Studies
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Amir-Abel Assih
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University of Nebraska at Omaha

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Clint Rowe  
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Jesse Bell  
Director and Claire M. Hubbard Professor of Water, Climate, & Health Program  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

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Director of Residence Life  
University of Nebraska at Kearney

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Neuroscience and Psychology Student  
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Zachary Renshaw  
Student Government Association Director of Integrity and Chair of ASUN Environmental Sustainability Committee  
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Fredrick W. Kayser University Research Professor Emeritus, Communications and Native American Studies  
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Ozgur Araz  
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Stancia Jenkins  
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Student and President, Maverick Productions  
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A.T. Miller  
Chief Diversity Officer  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Christopher Dethlefs  
Medical Student and President, Healthy Earth Alliance  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Judy Henning  
Assistant Professor in Teacher Education  
University of Nebraska at Kearney

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Associate Professor of Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management  
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Dennis Sabin
Student
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F. John Hay
Extension Educator, Biological Systems Engineering Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Geography Instructor
University of Nebraska at Omaha

John Noble
Associate Professor, College of Education, Health & Human Sciences
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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Chemistry Stockroom Technician
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Biological Systems Engineering Student
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Tirthankar Roy
Assistant Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

David Manning
Assistant Professor of Biology
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Nick Brozovic
Director of Policy, Daugherty Water for Food Institute
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Vice Chancellor for Business & Finance
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Amy Rundstrom (Team Lead)
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Michael Cremers
Facilities Director
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University of Nebraska at Omaha

Kaycie Lane
Assistant Professor of Practice of Civil & Environmental Engineering
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Lucy Peterkin
Student Senator
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Lindsay Neemann
Manager, Facilities & Planning
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Sustainability matters at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

Nebraska Innovation Campus models sustainable practices in our physical facilities and culture. Nebraska Innovation Campus buildings are built to LEED Silver standards and enable the campus to minimize its impact on the environment while maximizing the utility and well-being of users. Buildings are heated and cooled by a renewable energy source and composting and recycling practices are campus expectations.

For additional information, photos and videos [INNOVATE.UNL.EDU]
While building the current Nebraska Innovation Campus facilities, many aspects were taken into consideration including employing the newest and most creative technologies to heat and cool the buildings. The Centralized Renewable Energy System (CRES) uses reclaimed, non-drinkable water from the nearby Theresa Street wastewater treatment plant to heat and cool campus buildings. This award-winning closed-loop system transfers thermal energy in underground piping to the entire campus. The investment in this source of alternative energy will ensure that NIC buildings operate 30% more efficiently than ones with standard equipment and will lower the risks associated with fluctuating commodity prices. This system is even more efficient than a geothermal system because of the consistent water temperatures provided by the wastewater treatment facility.

NIC is committed to becoming a zero waste campus. The zero waste concept looks to change the way the campus thinks about waste and transcends the design, production and consumption processes. By reengineering systems in ways that reduce inefficiency, emulate sustainable natural cycles and empower the local community, NIC’s zero waste efforts promote environmental sustainability, economic opportunity and social equity. NIC’s zero waste strategy incorporates robust recycling and composting programs, sustainable purchasing policies and fosters collaboration with our partners.

Electric vehicle charging stations are now operational at Nebraska Innovation Campus. Two charging stations are located at the south end of the Greenhouse Innovation Center parking lot. Available charging stations include a ChargePoint CT4000 Level 2 Charging Station and a ChargePoint Express 250 High-power DC Charging Station.