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Neilson Library Final Charter

Smith College

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Neilson Library Sustainability

5 October 2016

Sustainability is a priority of Smith College and will be reflected in the design of the new Neilson Library.

Smith is committed to a net zero carbon campus by 2030. The design of the new Neilson is informed by input from the campus community and a number of sustainable building standards (including LEED). The following four areas are the focus for sustainable design in the project.

1. ***The new Neilson is smaller than the old, featuring collaborative use of space which reduces energy use and carbon emissions.***

The project embodies the notion of using and reusing shared physical resources -- library collections and space -- as an inherently sustainable practice.

2. ***The new Neilson will be (one of the) most energy efficient library (ies) with special collections in North America.***

This project moves Smith closer to its commitment to operational carbon neutrality by 2030 by:

- Implementing highly energy efficiency systems in a way that is compatible with the long term campus wide approach to get to net zero carbon emissions.
- Using construction materials that are local and regional to minimize carbon emissions and energy use. Their selection will be guided by the Living Building Challenge *Imperative 11*.
- Employing cutting edge approaches to heat and cool the building such as a “box-within-a-box” for special collections. This approach brings fresh air first into the general use part of the building, then further conditions the air and moves it into the special collections area.

3. ***The new library emphasizes health and well-being of students, the campus community, and the environment by:***

- Eliminating the use of the most toxic construction materials following the Living Building Challenge *Imperative 10 - Red List of Materials*.
- Maximizing access to natural light and air by:
 - providing occupants with controllable access to fresh air in non-special collections spaces.
 - maintaining access to daylight for the vast majority of the general collections area through the use of innovative sun shading and a “light scoop.”
- Limiting ambient noise from environmental systems.

4. ***The project enhances the local ecology and Smith’s historic campus by:***

- Reducing existing turf grass in favor of local diverse flora.
- Demonstrating innovative management of storm water.
- Utilizing window treatments that eliminate bird-strikes.
- Employing outdoor lighting that preserves the dark sky.

This building will be certified at least at the gold level of LEED.