

Green features of CPL

The Main Library Expansion will incorporate a wide variety of environmentally responsive design elements ranging from site design strategies to energy efficient heating and cooling systems. Other green design elements will include:

- Bike racks and showers to encourage the Library staff to leave their cars at home;
- Underground parking to increase the amount of green space over and above that which exists today;
- Light colored roofs on the addition to avoid heat build-up below;
- Low flow toilets and faucets, to reduce water consumption by 20%;
- Only non CFC and HCFC refrigerants used;
- Special “tuning” of the heating and air conditioning equipment to make sure they are running at optimum efficiency;
- The incorporation of an easily accessible area dedicated to recycling;
- Making sure torn down construction debris is recycled;
- Use of many new construction materials which have 20% post-consumer recycled content;
- Use of many building materials that are manufactured locally;
- The incorporation of the “double skin” glass wall facing the park, which will act as a thermal blanket and maximize natural daylighting and views to the outdoors
- The use of operable windows as much as possible, to provide naturally conditioned air.

The incorporation of these elements will allow the Library expansion to not only be friendly and welcoming to the citizens of Cambridge, but environmentally friendly as well.