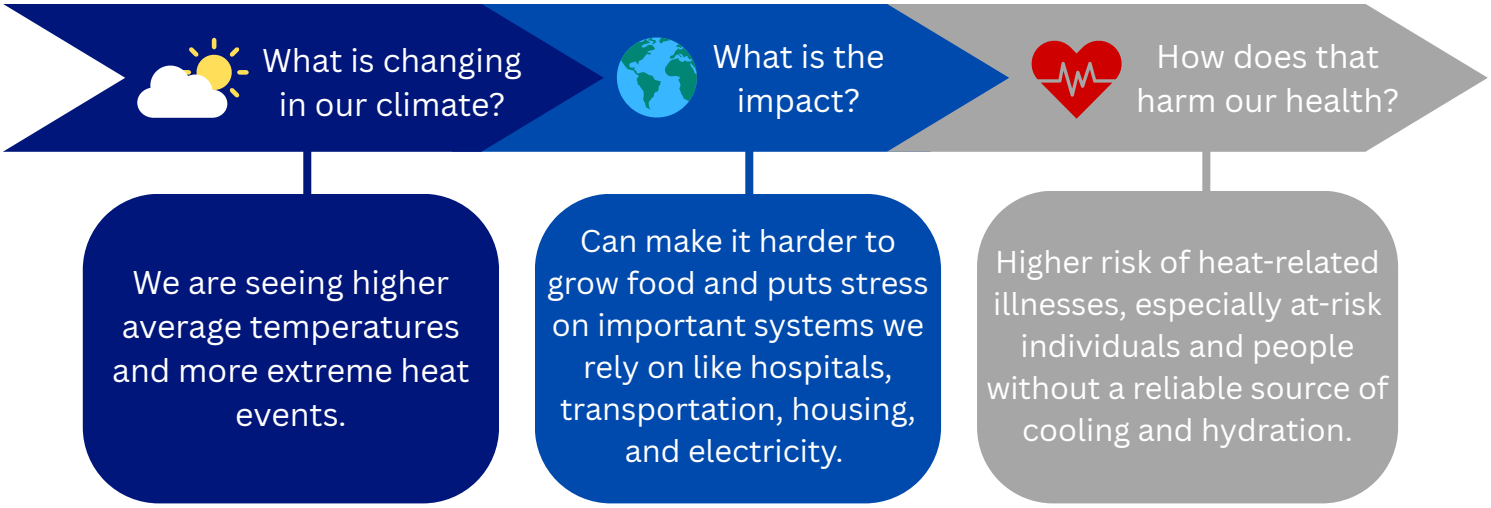
Climate Resilience in Lincoln, Nebraska

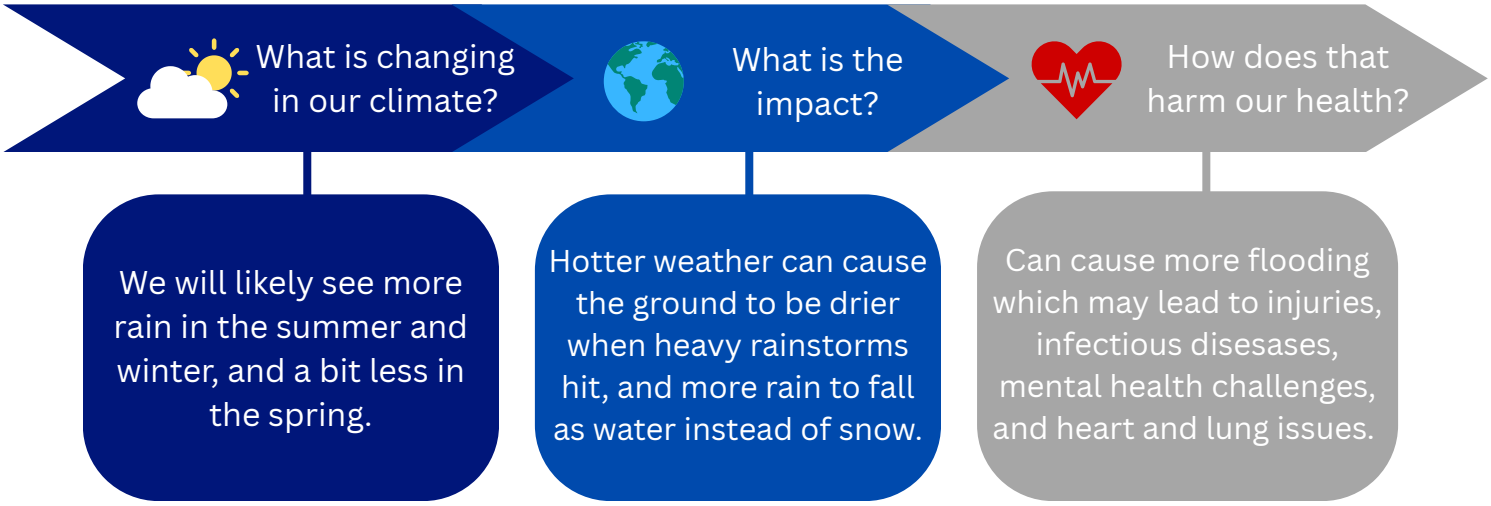
Climate resilience is the ability to prepare for, recover from, and adapt to the impacts of climate change. These impacts include, but are not limited to, shifts in temperature, precipitation patterns, and the frequency of extreme weather events. Climate resilience overlaps with other key focus areas for the Youth Climate Action Fund.

Extreme Heat



Visit lincoln.ne.gov/heat to learn more about the local Heat Response Plan

Flooding



For more information on flooding, visit https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/Utilities/Watershed-Management

Water Conservation

Droughts are a normal part of life in the Great Plains and for Nebraska. Many droughts are short-term and may only affect small areas, but multiple-year droughts like the Dust Bowl of the 1930s are relatively common as well. This makes conserving water an important consideration for Lincoln.

Did you know that the Lincoln community consumes nearly triple the amount of water during the summer months compared to the winter months due to outdoor water use? Head here to learn more about ways to minimize outdoor water use - https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/Utilities/LWS/Conservation/Outdoor

Did you know that on average, a Lincoln family of four uses 300 to 400 gallons of water each day? Head here to learn more about ways to minimize indoor water use - https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/Utilities/LWS/Conservation/Indoor

Did you know that the City has initiatives in place already that you can help expand? Head here to know more about rain barrels - https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/Utilities/Watershed-Management/Sustainable-Landscapes/Rain-Barrels and here to know more about rainscapes - https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/Utilities/Watershed-Management/Sustainable-Landscapes/Grants/Rainscaping-Lincoln

Green Lincoln

Trees provide shade and often food, have a cooling effect on the neighborhood, help retain moisture in the soil, trap GHG emissions and look beautiful!

Did you know that Lincoln's tree canopy has been seriously affected by the Emerald ash borer infestation? Head here to learn more about how you can revive our canopy by planting and taking care of trees - https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation/Community-Forestry/Tree-Planting-and-Care

Have you heard about Microforests? Microforests are densely-planted, multilayered indigenous forests planted in urban spaces which act as self-sustaining ecosystems that reconnect fragmented habitat and restore biodiversity. Head here to learn more about the Miyawaki method and how universities are adopting it - https://sustainability.uiowa.edu/miyawaki-forest

Head here - https://treepeople.org/ or here - https://communitygreening.org/program/youth-tree-team for examples on how young people like you are changing the world, one tree at a time.

One Lincoln - Community Resilience

Community resilience refers to the sustained ability of a group of people to prepare for, withstand, adapt to, and recover from adverse events and crises. Resilience can come in many ways - back up power sources after a storm, resilience centers where people can be safe during an adverse event or even the relationships between community members who are informed, prepared and show up for each other.

A well prepared community is more resilient during and after a disaster. Learn more about being prepared and create awareness among your community members too. Head here to learn more about emergency readiness kits - https://www.ready.gov/kit and here to know more about disaster preparedness in general - https://www.ready.gov/be-informed

Solar power can act as an effective back up during blackout events and even otherwise, is a clean energy source that can reduce grid electricity usage. Head here to see what LES is doing to promote solar power - https://www.les.com/sustainability/solar-power and here to see what youth like you are doing - https://ualr.edu/news/2026/03/02/student-led-solar-project-expands-sustainable-outdoor-spaces-at-ua-little-rock/

Language and communication barriers can prevent non-English speaking families from accessing life-saving emergency information. You can bridge this critical gap by leading community translation drives, designing multilingual emergency graphics, and distributing translated safety guides to local cultural centers and immigrant families. Head here for resources - https://www.ready.gov/ready-your-language

Other Resources

The above are just some categories and ideas for you to get started on. Check out the City's Climate Action Plan for more ideas and feel free to explore even beyond. You are welcome to reach out to us at Maizie Humm - MHumm@lincoln.ne.gov or Nanditha Menon - nmenon@lincoln.ne.gov

- 2021-2027 Climate Action Plan and 2026 Climate Action Plan Progress Report - https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Projects-Programs-Initiatives/Resilient-Lincoln
- Lincoln-Lancaster County Heat Response Plan – https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/Health-Department/Heat/Resources/Lincoln-Lancaster-County-Heat-Response-Plan
- The UN Youth in Action Site has plenty of stories and resources to inspire ideas - https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/youth-in-action
- Learn more about how youth can engage with cities on climate action here - https://www.c40.org/what-we-do/building-a-movement/youth-engagement/