

GREEN PRACTICES

GREEN PRACTICES

Since 1987, the Vancouver Convention Centre has been taking steps to manage and minimize its impact on the environment. A member of the Recycling Council of BC, the facility is certified BOMA GO GREEN which recognizes industry approved environmental best practices in the management of facilities. The facility's commitment to a green operation is based on the three fundamental principles of recycle, reduce and reuse leading to zero waste.

WASTE MINIMIZATION

In the early 1990's, the Vancouver Convention Centre initiated a recycling program focused on recycling office paper. Over the years, the program has steadily increased in range and scope and now includes:

- paper of all kinds
- cardboard, wood
- metal, plastic, glass
- lamp ballasts, fluorescent bulbs, metal halide bulbs
- batteries, construction materials
- food/organic matter
- electronic equipment and devices

The recycling program is facility-wide and includes both front-of-house and back-of-house operations. Recycling bins are placed throughout the facility to encourage clients, delegates and visitors to recycle their materials.

Wastebaskets in the Vancouver Convention Centre administration offices have been reduced to less than one-half their normal size to encourage more recycling and reusing and less waste. Recycling bins and smaller wastebaskets can be provided for your use during your event. Please let your Event Manager know if you would like to explore this option.

To further help minimize waste, meeting rooms are set with paper pads that are made of 100% post-consumer content, and filtered water is typically served in jugs and not bottles.

FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE

Behind the scenes in our production kitchen, the culinary team specializes in operating a "scratch" kitchen. The Vancouver Convention Centre has made its name by featuring fresh, local products including BC wines thereby limiting "food miles" consumed. Purveyors are asked to deliver goods in re-usable containers. In-sink disposals have been eliminated and organic waste is recycled.

Food service is presented on china with cutlery and linen to reduce the use of disposables. Condiments are typically served in bulk rather than individual portion packs. Food and beverage purchases are prioritized in this order: a) locally and organically produced; b) locally produced; and c) organic. Please speak to your Event Manager and/or Catering Sales Manager about available choices for your menus and your food service.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE CONSUMPTION

To help manage energy consumption, the facility schedules HVAC to match daily activities and has made improvements to augment these efforts such as:

- replacement of older, inefficient lighting equipment
- occupancy sensors for meeting rooms
- additional daylight sensing control systems
- upgraded HVAC systems with variable speed motors and additional electronic sensors
- motion sensors and low flow fixtures in restrooms
- restroom paper products, soaps and cleaning products are Green Seal Certified

In addition to its operating practices, the facility makes a financial contribution through its landlord towards the purchase of Green Power Certificates which ensures that power generated from renewable sources enters the power grid.

CARBON OFFSETS

The Vancouver Convention Centre purchases carbon offsets for its business air travel through a reputable local offset agency. If you would like to incorporate a carbon offset purchase program into your event, your Event Manager would be pleased to provide contact information for offset agencies that will be able to assist you.

PRINTING & PAPER USE

The Vancouver Convention Centre website offers user-friendly features to encourage the use of electronic materials and to reduce the amount of printed materials needed. The facility encourages double-sided printing when printing must be done and uses FSC certified copy paper with 100% post-consumer content. Please let your Event Manager know if you would like to source a similar product or would like to know more about options for your printing needs.

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES OF THE EXPANDED WEST BUILDING

The Vancouver Convention Centre's west building features some of the most advanced sustainable design features. The building was designed with the goal of qualifying for LEED Gold certification and significant focus has been placed on environmental sustainability including:

- A 24,000 sq. metre planted roof
- On-site black and grey water recycling system
- Seawater heating and cooling
- The most current energy management technology
- Natural lighting and ventilation
- Marine habitat in the foundation

WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

As part of Vancouver Convention Centre's commitment to the environment, the West expansion utilizes its own on-site state-of-the-art wastewater treatment system to cleanse and purify black and grey water for re-use in the facility for non-potable purposes.

The system uses the latest bioreactor technology to treat wastewater to the highest standards required by the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Health for reuse in toilet flushing and roof irrigation. Although the system is very robust, there are certain materials which cannot be allowed to enter the drains and toilets.

Putting the wrong things down any drain in the West building will damage the system, cause blockages, odours, interruption of the wastewater treatment process and potentially lead to spills and contamination. Please note the following list of items that cannot go down the drains and help us maintain the integrity of our wastewater treatment system.

These products do not belong in the wastewater treatment system:

Fats, oils and greases

Fats, oils and greases of any kind and in any amount will cause serious impact to the wastewater treatment system. It is not permissible to pour any of these down any drains including floor drains. All fats, oils and greases must be separately contained and removed for proper disposal.

Fruit, vegetable or animal matter

The facility has an extensive organic recycling program and organic waste containers are available for collection of organic materials. Fruit, vegetable and animal matter cannot be put down any drains including floor drains.

Plastics, latex, rubber, fabric, cardboard, string, paper

Items, including personal hygiene items, containing these materials cannot be disposed in toilets. Please use the proper containers that are provided for appropriate and hygienic disposal.

Medical and personal items

Items such as medications, vitamins, band-aids, needles, hair, cigarette butts, cosmetics, dental floss, cotton balls or swabs cannot be disposed in toilets. Please use the proper containers that are provided for appropriate and hygienic disposal.

Harsh chemicals, paper products

With the exception of bathroom tissue, all other paper products such as paper towels, cleaning towels and personal paper products cannot be disposed in toilets. Chemicals such as strong solutions, paints and varnishes cannot be disposed of in toilets and cannot go down the drains including floor drains.

Your assistance in helping maintain our state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility is appreciated.

GREEN MEETINGS

The Vancouver Convention Centre would be pleased to work with you in meeting your specific needs and supporting your green event. You can help by:

- providing event program information to ensure efficient scheduling of HVAC
- guaranteeing meal numbers so we can better manage food ordering
- communicating to delegates and exhibitors about reducing waste, reusing wherever possible, and recycling

To help make your event more environmentally friendly:

- include a donation program for exhibitors to donate their re-useable materials and products after dismantling
- ask exhibitors to minimize handouts, print material double-sided on post-consumer, FSC certified paper
- use giveaways made from recycled materials
- purchase recycled name badge holders and lanyards
- print name badges on recycled stock
- encourage the use of low-impact transportation and encourage delegates, exhibitors and others to offset carbon emissions
- order event signage without the year so that they may be reused

To minimize paper use and waste:

- do not print a brochure
- provide online registration
- promote the event through the web and e-mail
- participate in the facility's recycling program
- agree to use only china, cups and glasses for food services

For more information, please contact your Event Manager.