

Virginia Beach Convention Center Sustainability Initiatives

RECYCLING

- The following items are collected in pre-function spaces, offices, meeting rooms and all back of house spaces. Commingled materials are compacted and transported to an off site sorting facility
 - Glass
 - Steel cans
 - Aluminum cans
 - Plastic
 - Office paper
 - Cardboard
- Mercury is captured from proper disposal of fluorescent lamps via an on site disposal system
- Battery recycling from all touchless plumbing devices
- Use of renewable resources in the construction such as Cumaru for wood for floors, Meeting Suite veneers, and outdoor decks.
- Cooking grease is removed from the site and reused

WASTE REDUCTION

Food and Conference Facilities

- Eliminate the use of Styrofoam
- Use dishware and glassware and minimize use of disposables
- Disposable containers made from:
 - Bio-based materials
 - Recycled content
- Use of water pitchers that minimize use of single-use bottles
- Food overages are donated to a local shelter for the homeless.
- Effective food inventory control to minimize wastes
- When available, purchase locally grown produce and other foods

Office/Purchasing

- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
 - Cleaning products
 - Printing vendors
 - Print cartridge suppliers
- 2-sided copies/printing
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
- Purchase recycled content paper
- Purchase of durable equipment and furniture

Maintenance

- Use of Latex Paint
- Aggressive carpet maintenance program to maximize the life of carpets
- Reuse of paint thinners
- Proper recycling and/or disposal of thinners and solvents
- Preventative maintenance of all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles

- Last-in/first-out inventory & effective labeling systems
- Less toxic materials
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides (spot treatment)
- Use of environmentally-friendly housekeeping products including the following:
 - Paper products (hand towels)
 - Microfiber cloths and mops that are washed on site for reuse.
 - “Green Certified” cleaners such as Buckeye Star Spray window cleaner and Buckeye Marauder all purpose cleaner. www.buckeyeinternational.com
 - “Green Certified” vacuums such as the Nobles Viper and the Windsor Chariot I Vacuum www.windsorind.com and www.nobles.com
 - “Green Certified” floor scrubbers Tennant 7400/Nobles EZ Rider that uses a “Green Certified” Fast Foam Scrubbing Technology. www.tennantco.com and www.nobles.com.
- Many building materials from our former convention center were recycled and reused as fill material on construction of our new center.
- Steel, copper, aluminum, concrete and cinder blocks were recycled from our old convention center during demolition.

WATER

- Tracking overall water usage and wastewater
- High efficiency dishwashers
- Microfiber technology mops
- Low flow restrictors on faucets
- Hand sinks and soap dispensers with motion sensors
- Landscaped property with over 2,000 trees and shrubs on a 50-acre site
- Effective landscape management plan which utilizes drought tolerant species, metering and rain gauges, and minimizes lawn areas.
- Effective storm water management
- Automated irrigation system measures rain and limits irrigation demand.
- Minimization of impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc)
- Vegetative buffers around streams and ponds

ENERGY

- A program has been initiated to change out incandescent lamps to a more compact and energy efficient fluorescent lighting
- Energy efficient glass system that limits ultra violet (UV) light penetration and solar energy in the large pre-function spaces
- Lighting & HVAC systems programmed based on event schedules to minimize usage during non-peak times and conserve energy.
- Non-essential items turned off when spaces not in use such as escalators, video walls and similar items.
- Tracking overall energy bills with established goals to reduce and High Efficiency Heating & Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Individual thermostats for each room
- Extensive use of natural lighting
- Lighting sensors that turn lights off when rooms are unoccupied
- Thermal-rated windows and insulation
- Use of directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas