

GREEN MEETINGS

Our building is LEED Silver Certified by the United States Green Building Council making it one of the most energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly convention centers in the nation



Making sound environmental choices is not only the responsible thing to do, it's the right thing to do. Since opening in 1989 we have been an industry leader in the green movement and are continuously looking for ways to minimize the impact of large events on the environment. In 2011, we achieved LEED Silver Certification for these efforts – demonstrating that you don't have to be a new building to be certified, just committed to making the earth a better place for future generations. We invite clients and attendees to join us by minimizing the use of materials and natural resources that adversely impact the environment.

Waste Minimization

- Recycling diverts approximately 40% of our total waste.
- Initial recycling efforts began in 1990 with the diversion of glass and plastic bottles, aluminum cans, mixed paper, wood pallets and clean green waste.
- Mixed recyclables (paper, plastic, aluminum and glass) are collected daily in clearly marked bins throughout our building on a “no-fee” basis.
- Used batteries, printer ink cartridges, light bulbs, tires and corrugated cardboard are diverted.
- Copper wire is recycled after every show, averaging five tons annually.
- Cooking oil is collected and recycled into bio-diesel fuel.

Energy Efficiency

- Heating/Cooling System replacement and upgrades save 2.7 million kWh annually.
- Energy-management software and energy-efficient lighting saves 734,000 kWh annually.
- Energy-efficient dishwashers in our kitchen save 3,297 kWh and 8,198 gallons of water annually.
- Installation of fluorescent lighting in our exhibit halls saves 1.3 million kWh annually and reduces energy consumption by approximately 44%. Our exhibit halls are the first in the nation to go 100% fluorescent.
- Our in-house green team is dedicated to exploring and implementing the best green practices by encouraging



AWARDS:

Our green efforts have resulted in the following local, state and national recognitions and awards:

LEED Silver Certification Existing Buildings
United States Green Building Council, 2011

Environmental Leadership Award
Professional Convention Management Association, 2011

Recycler of the Year
City of San Diego, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2012

Clear Air Circle Honoree
American Lung Association, 2010

Large Champion Honoree Award
Excellence in Energy Savings, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, 2009, 2010 and 2012

Waste Reduction Award
Waste Reduction and Conservation of Natural Resources, State of California, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011

Sustainable Business Practices Award
Downtown San Diego Partnership, 2010

Director's Recycling Award
City of San Diego, 2003, 2006 and 2007

SANDEE Award
Central Plant Efficiency Project in nonprofit category, San Diego Excellence in Energy, 2005

sustainability, waste minimization and energy and water conservation.

- All in-house contractors require adherence to green practices.

Water Conservation

- Low flow automatic sinks and toilets are in all restrooms.
- Outdoor landscaping uses drip irrigation, drought-tolerant plants and mulch to reduce watering.
- Combined conservation efforts save 81,026 gallons of water annually.

Food Composting

- Nearly 150 tons of food waste is diverted annually and our goal is to divert all food scraps and eliminate the use of garbage disposals.

Environmental Purchasing

- Products made with biodegradable and recycled materials including copy paper, legal pads, envelopes, toilet paper, facial tissue and paper towels are purchased.
- Environmentally responsible cleaning products are purchased for carpets, floors, kitchens and bathrooms.
- Dry cleaning and laundering services for staff uniforms use biodegradable solvents.
- Fruits, vegetables, olive oils and seafood are purchased from local farms and suppliers that are within a 100 mile radius, as supply and season allows.
- Green disposable cutlery and plate ware are available on request. There are compostable, sustainable and recyclable options. Please inquire as to the best option for your event.

Donating Reusable Goods

- Coordination with clients ensures excess food is donated to local charities following events. Approximately 100 tons of food is donated to local charities annually.
- Leftover convention items, unclaimed lost and found items and surplus furniture and computers are donated to local schools and social service organizations. Over 10 tons are donated annually.

Leadership

- Executive management develops best practices to minimize the impact of events globally by participating on IAVM's Sustainability Committee for environmentally responsible public assembly facility management.

Transportation

- San Diego is among the "Top 25 Most Walkable U.S. Cities" based on an annual survey by the American Podiatric Medical Association.
- Downtown is home to hotels, restaurants, retail shops and attractions within walking distance of the Convention Center.
- Our Convention Center is easily accessible via the San Diego Trolley or bus.
- Close proximity of hotels to the Convention Center reduces shuttling and emissions.
- Employees receive paid incentive to use public transit.

