

## GREEN MEETINGS

The San Diego Convention Center Corporation (SDCCC) is committed to supporting and encouraging sustainable practices, including the hosting of environmentally friendly “green” meetings in our building. Over the past four years, the Corporation has garnered over a half-dozen state and city awards for our highly successful conservation and recycling efforts.

Because conservation of energy and natural resources is a top priority, the SDCCC has developed several programs promoting minimal use of materials and natural resources that adversely impact the environment. This Fact Sheet outlines the green programs and practices currently in place at the Convention Center. We invite clients and guests to join in these efforts.

### WASTE MINIMIZATION

- Initial efforts began in 1990 with the diversion of glass and plastic bottles, aluminum cans, mixed paper, wood pallets and clean green waste to the City of San Diego’s recycling center. Mixed recyclables (paper, plastic, aluminum, glass) are collected daily in clearly marked bins throughout our building on a “no-fee” basis.
- Recycling diverts approximately 40% of our total waste.
- Used batteries, printer ink cartridges, light bulbs, tires and corrugated cardboard (baled on-site) are among additional items being diverted. Copper wire is also recycled after every show, averaging five tons annually.
- Food & beverage collects cooking oil which is 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 kitchen save 3,297 kWh and 8,198 gallons of water annually.



### WATER CONSERVATION

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

### FOOD COMPOSTING

- A food composting program began in June 2007. Nearly 150 tons of food waste is diverted annually. Ultimately, our goal is to divert all food scraps, eliminating the use of garbage disposals.



**AWARDS:**

**Clean Air Circle Honoree**  
American Lung Association,  
2010

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

**Recycler of the Year**  
City of San Diego, 2008

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

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

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



**ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING**

- Products made with biodegradable, 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.
- Environmentally responsible dry cleaning and laundering services for staff uniforms use biodegradable solvents, which are easier on the environment.
- Food and beverage purchases beef, pork and lamb through a network of local family owned farms committed to raising livestock through humane, sustainable practices. No antibiotics or growth hormones are used. Organic fruits, vegetables and herbs are also exclusively purchased locally.
- Biodegradable corn-based and sugarcane-based plastic cutlery cups and plates are used.
- All in-house contractors require adherence to "green" practices.

**DONATING REUSABLE GOODS**

- We work with clients to ensure 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 20 tons are donated annually through this program.
- For more information, email [gerrica.gray@visitsandiego.com](mailto:gerrica.gray@visitsandiego.com).

**LEADERSHIP**

- Executive management participates on the IAEE Committee for environmentally responsible events and exhibitions, which develops best practices to minimize the impact of events globally.

**AMERICA'S FINEST & MOST "WALKABLE" CITY/TRANSPORTATION**

- San Diego is not only America's Finest City, it was ranked 7th among the top 10 most walkable U.S. cities in 2007 by *Prevention* magazine and the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA).
- Accessible downtown with 11,000 hotel rooms plus restaurants and attractions all within walking distance of the Convention Center.
- The proximity of the hotels to the Convention Center reduces shuttling and emissions.
- Convention Center is easily accessible via bus or trolley
- Employees receive paid incentive to use public transit.

