# 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. Our highly successful conservation and recycling efforts have earned us LEED Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and more than a dozen state and city awards for our eco-conscious initiatives over the past five years.

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 45 percent 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 the kitchen save 3,297 kWh and 8,198 gallons of water annually.
- Installation of fluorescent lighting in exhibit halls saves 1.3 million kWh annually and reduces energy consumption by approximately 44 percent in our contiguous exhibit halls. The SDCC is the first in the nation to go 100 percent fluorescent in the exhibit halls.
- In-house green team dedicated to exploring and implementing best green practices to encourage sustainability, waste minimization, energy and water conservation, and practices to protect the environment.

## 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.

green meetings

## AWARDS:

**LEED Silver Certification**
Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance Performance Standards and Practices
U.S. Green Building Council, 2011

**Environmental Leadership Award**
Professional Convention Management Association, 2011

**Alonzo Award**
Sustainable Business Practices
Downtown San Diego Partnership, 2010

**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, 2010 and 2011

**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, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011

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

ENERGY STAR PARTNER

## 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.

## 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.
- Through the 100 mile club, Food and Beverage purchases fruits, vegetables, olive oils and seafood's from local farms and suppliers that are within a 100 mile radius, as supply and season allows.
- Compostable green ware is utilized for all disposable meal services and is available at no charge to clients.
- 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.

## LEADERSHIP

- Executive management participates on IAVM's Sustainability Committee for environmentally responsible public assembly facility management, developing 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.



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