The San Diego Convention Center is a proud industry leader in sustainability. Our business practices are recognized for going above and beyond when it comes to environmental responsibility in operating and managing our venue, which is LEED Gold Certified by the U.S. Green Building Council.

WASTE MINIMIZATION

80% OF WASTE GENERATED IN 2017 WAS DIVERTED FROM LANDFILLS

- 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 to keep recyclables out of the waste stream.
- Used batteries, printer ink cartridges, lightbulbs, 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.

FOOD COMPOSTING

173 TONS OF NON-EDIBLE FOOD WAS COMPOSTED LAST YEAR

- The convention center composts all food scraps
- There are no garbage disposals in our kitchen.

DONATIONS

54.5 TONS OF EDIBLE FOOD DONATED TO THE SAN DIEGO RESCUE MISSION = 87,000 PLATED MEALS FOR SAN DIEGANS IN NEED

- Approximately 8 tons of leftover convention items, unclaimed lost and found items and surplus furniture and computers were donated to schools, libraries, churches, veterans’ groups, women’s centers and shelters.

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.
- Kitchens utilize energy-efficient dishwashers.

54.5 TONS OF EDIBLE FOOD DONATED TO THE SAN DIEGO RESCUE MISSION
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.
+ All in-house contractors require adherence to green practices.
+ Fruits, vegetables, olive oils and seafood are purchased from local farms and suppliers that are within a 150-mile radius, as supply and season allows.
+ Green disposable cutlery and plateware are available on request. There are compostable, sustainable and recyclable options.

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.
+ The San Diego Convention Center is proud to be a member of the Port of San Diego’s Green Business Network, a group of local businesses dedicated to improve their operational efficiencies and track their successes.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

+ Energy-management software and a full-facility conversion of 11,650 lighting fixtures to more energy-efficient LED lighting saves approximately $850,000 annually.
+ The more environmentally-friendly LEDs offer a number of benefits including improved visibility and reduced energy consumption.
+ Energy-efficient dishwashers in kitchens save 3,297 kWh annually.

TRANSPORTATION

+ Our convention center is located next to a San Diego Trolley stop making it easy to get around without a car.
+ Hotels, restaurants, retail and even some attractions are within walking distance.
+ The venue is just three miles from the San Diego International Airport.