

# **The Baltimore Convention Center Environmental Policy**

The Baltimore Convention Center is committed to building, implementing and expanding on an innovative environmental management system that sustains the needs of the Center's daily operations, meets the standards of the City of Baltimore's sustainability efforts, and serves to educate and benefit our staff, industry partners and clientele on the importance of the reduction of our carbon footprint. The cornerstones of our environmental policy are: Waste Reduction and Diversion, Energy Conservation, Water Quality and Consumption, Air Quality, responsible procurement processes, continuing education, and involvement with the community.

## **1. WASTE MANAGEMENT: REDUCTION AND DIVERSION**

The Baltimore Convention Center implements a single stream recycling program throughout the building and conducts annual waste audits to ensure we continue to meet or exceed our target waste diversion rate. In addition to fully-comingled recycling, The Center employs separate programs to dispose of pallets, corrugated cardboard, scrap metal, and compostable food waste. Among these programs, is our use of a SOMAT DeHydrator that reduces all compostable material processed by an 8:1 ratio. The nitrogen rich by-product is used as an additive for the facility's gardens.

## **2. ENERGY CONSERVATION**

The Center entered into a conservation agreement with local provider Constellation Energy that provided upgrades to the facility's lighting, heating, and water systems which will produce a guaranteed 20% reduction in energy usage.

## **3. ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN**

To reduce water consumption, the Baltimore Convention Center is equipped with a highly efficient irrigation system consisting of timed sprinklers, drip irrigation and sensors and water-saving devices for toilets, urinals and faucets in all restrooms. The Center's Outdoor Terrace is equipped with a drought resistant vegetative roofing pavilion and rainwater recapturing system.

#### 4. AIR QUALITY

The facility continuously monitors both carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) through our energy management system to ensure air quality performance throughout the facility. The Baltimore Convention Center is a smoke-free facility.

#### 5. RESPONSIBLE PROCURMENT PROCESSES


The Convention Center, along with its exclusive food and beverage provider, Centerplate, prioritizes sustainable preferential purchasing systems and supports buying local whenever possible. In addition, effort is made to ensure that the healthiest and least harmful cleaning products and practices are in place throughout the facility and that recycled, recyclable and biodegradable products are utilized in facility operations.


#### 6. CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Center is currently developing Green Action Teams (groups formed by employee representatives from all departments and partners) who will ensure each department is doing what it takes to contribute to and grow the Center's sustainability programs.

#### 7. INVOLVEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Convention Center plays a leadership role working in tandem with the City of Baltimore, industry partners, and clientele to insure that green meeting practices are met. We further our green initiatives through volunteerism, food donations, reuse of composting materials and involvement in other programs that reinforce our stewardship.

  
Peggy Daidakis, Executive Director

  
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