



Minneapolis Convention Center

Sustainability

Initiatives



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We are committed to using resources responsibly and assisting customers in achieving their sustainability goals for meetings and conventions.

As a 1.6 million square foot facility, the Minneapolis Convention Center (MCC) is dedicated to using resources responsibly by incorporating sustainable initiatives. As a building, our focus can be categorized by energy, water and waste, but it's so much more than that.

We also look at air quality, environmental purchasing, community partnerships and transportation through our holistic approach to sustainability. We use nearly 100% compostable food containers and utensils and provide water bottle filling stations throughout the building. We've also focused on helping clients make their event sustainable by sharing best practices and building infrastructure that makes it easy to be sustainable.

The recycling program launched in 1991, only one year after the Minneapolis Convention Center opened. This waste program established a system for recycling cardboard and paper left over from events. Now, having grown significantly past recycling, the MCC is LEED Certified, maintains a Gold Level certification from the Events Industry Council and is the first convention center to achieve a SITES certification for our Urban Meadow Plaza.



Sustainable WATER



- Stormwater Catch System holds up to 5.4 million gallons of rainwater annually, preventing runoff into the Mississippi River and redirecting it to our underground storage system for the facility's irrigation.
- Kitchen areas and restrooms have been upgraded with fixtures that use 50% less water.
- Pollinator Park, located on the east side of the building, features an array of flowers to promote pollination. This park is irrigated using the water from the stormwater catch system.

URBAN MEADOW PLAZA

The 2.5-acre MCC Plaza is built on top of an underground parking deck, surrounded by an urban meadow planted with prairie grasses and wildflowers. It is downtown's largest pollinator refuge.

Designed for environmental sustainability, the Plaza includes native trees, plant species and integration utilizing the MCC's stormwater catch system. In 2022, the Plaza was awarded Silver certification under the Sustainable SITES Initiative rating system for achievement in landscape sustainability. The MCC Plaza is the nation's first SITES certified project to be located at a convention center and the first ever SITES certified project in the Upper Midwest.



HONEYBEES ON THE PLAZA

In 2022, the MCC installed a honeybee hive in our Urban Meadow Plaza. This introduction provided an exciting way to continue our work to meet our sustainability and community goals and initiatives – both at the MCC and the City of Minneapolis. As the hive was placed within the Plaza's wildflowers, this installation is viewable for the community, providing an educational opportunity for our neighborhood.

Sustainable WASTE



- The building features over 40 bottle filling stations, not including staff areas
- Approximately, 4 tons of food is donated each year
 - ▶ Non-consumed foods go to local non-profit organization like People Serving People
- 160 Tons of organics and food scraps are used for hog feed and composting
 - ▶ Used grease is recycled for biodiesel and soap
- Digital Displays throughout the facility reduce signage waste from events

RECYCLING

- FOH Recycling Stations
 - ▶ Cardboard, Paper, Organics, Cans & Bottles, Pallets
- 60% of all waste is recycled
 - ▶ All single-use food packaging and utensils are compostable
- BOH Recycling
 - ▶ Cooking Oil, Tablecloths, Sheet Plastic, Shrink Wrap, Carpet, Wood, Aggregate & Landscape Debris
 - ▶ Separated waste centers in the back of house allow staff to efficiently recycle over 60% of all waste



Sustainable ENERGY



- High speed roll-up doors have been installed to reduce energy loss during event load in/out activity
- Building HVAC and lighting systems are continuously upgraded with efficient control and fixtures

SOLAR PANELS

- Thousands of 600 KW rooftop solar panels provide on-site green sourced energy



WIND POWER

- 100% Electrical power is offset by wind and solar energy



LIGHTING

- The building features LED efficient lighting
- Architectural designs found throughout the MCC, including multiple skylights and the entire north corridor floor-to-ceiling glass wall, allow us to utilize natural light and reduce energy consumption. These designs also connect our interior spaces to the outdoors, aligning with our City by Nature values.





AIR QUALITY

- Minneapolis Convention Center promotes a no idling policy for all trucks loading in or out of the center
- Smoking is not permitted within 25' of any entrance
- Internal air quality is monitored and recorded to maintain a safe environment for attendee



ENVIRONMENTAL PURCHASING

- Food served at the Minneapolis Convention Center is sourced locally whenever possible
- Almost all cleaning products used in the Minneapolis Convention Center are Green Seal Certified
- Floor care equipment uses electrically activated water technology to clean carpeted surfaces without chemicals
- All chair and table linen fabric is sourced with recycled fiber content



TRANSPORTATION

- Many staff commute to work by bike, public transportation or carpool
- Metro Transit provides a free shuttle to link the Minneapolis Convention Center to downtown hospitality and the light rail
- Light-rail transit connects Minneapolis with the airport, Mall of America, Saint Paul and 43 other stations
- Minneapolis offers bike sharing systems and bike racks are available near most building entrances



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- Leftover food is donated to People Serving People
- Leftover event items are donated to a variety of local organizations
- Staff members team up to provide a variety of services to charitable organizations throughout the year



GREEN TEAM

- The MCC sustainability committee offers clients opportunities to enhance their environmental efforts, one of which is the Green Team. Comprising MCC employees, the Green Team provides event support, assisting in the organization and separation of waste and recycling during significant move-ins and move-outs. Their involvement not only raises the recycling rate for events but also serves as a tangible representation of our unwavering commitment to sustainability.



CERTIFICATIONS

- **LEED:** The MCC has received LEED v4 Certification for Existing Building Operations and Maintenance by the U.S. Green Building Council.
- **EIC:** The MCC's sustainability initiatives have earned us a Gold Level certification to the Events Industry Council Sustainable Events Standards.
- **SITES:** The MCC's Urban Meadow Plaza was awarded Silver certification under the Sustainable SITES Initiative rating system for achievement in landscape sustainability. The MCC Plaza is the nation's first SITES certified project to be located at a convention center and the first ever SITES certified project in the Upper Midwest.