



Going Green at the Center

The Knoxville Convention Center is committed to being an environmentally friendly facility. Below is an overview of the measures we have implemented to further our green initiatives.

Energy Wise: Heating and cooling

- By installing energy efficient heating systems and changing the way they operate, the Knoxville Convention Center will save an average of \$105,000 per year on energy costs.
- Installing new web-based building controls for the HVAC system, allows building management to make status checks and adjustments from off-site.
- Adding a small unit to service the air handlers for three key areas, the electrical systems room, the administrative offices and the kitchen, provides efficient temperature control for the staff, without heating or cooling the entire building.
- The Convention Center is supporting the city's solar initiative with the installation of a 90- kilowatt solar panel system on the roof that will provide renewable energy to the center. We currently have a 30 kilowatt system that we are installing on the roof as well.
- The Convention Center has partnered with Ameresco to identify additional energy-saving projects for the facility and is preparing the application for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification at the Silver Level from the U.S. Green Building Council for the energy-efficient measures we have put in place.

Energy Wise: Lighting and water usage

- With abundant natural lighting available in the concourses, the need for facility lighting is diminished whenever possible.
- Window tinting along the west side of the building and on the skylights has been completed which lowers the temperature of public concourses and saves on energy costs.
- By installing low-flow water faucets throughout the building including the main sinks in the kitchen, we have significantly reduced water usage throughout the center.
- Redesigned the domestic hot water supply to allow the "high pressure" boiler to be turned off when it is not needed, thus lowering energy consumption.

- Installed motion sensitive light switches in high traffic restrooms and break rooms that will automatically turn off when not in use.
- Waterless urinals installed to reduce wastewater.
- Lighting in some areas has been replaced with Smart bulbs.
- Lighting system controlled by technicians allows lighting levels to be at 50% during event move-in and move out, and 100% only during event hours in occupied space.
- Installation of carbon dioxide (CO2) monitors throughout the building.

Food & Beverage Department:

- This year the Convention Center recycled 15 tons of disposables from events.
- We are the largest supplier of prepared food to charity in Knox County, donating surplus supplies and food to local food pantries, especially Second Harvest.
- Cooking oil is recycled for use in the creation of other products.

Greenery & Landscaping:

- Changes to outdoor landscaping reduced water consumption by planting more perennials, which have a lower water requirement compared to annuals.
- Live trees inside the facility aid in cleaning the air and a creating a healthier environment by reducing the Volatile Organic Compounds and also support the oxygen/carbon dioxide exchange.

Recycled Materials:

- The Convention Center has implemented single stream recycling which allow all recycled materials to be put in the same container for greater efficiency and less waste. Recycled materials include: paper, cardboard, aluminum, steel, glass, plastic and mixed paper products.
- All stationery, brochures and business cards are being printed on recycled paper.
- All restroom paper products meet U.S. EPA standards for post-consumer wastepaper content and are biodegradable.

Waste reduction:

- Shredded paper products are recycled to use for packing material

- Automated paper towel dispensers with recycled paper installed in restrooms.
- Automated biodegradable foam soap dispensers are installed in all restrooms.
- Additionally the toilet tissue is core free of a cardboard insert to reduce waste.
- Twenty percent of our employees car pool or bicycle to work to reduce carbon footprint.

Cleaning:

- Cleaning products are all biodegradable and less toxic to the environment
- Employees responsible for cleaning have been trained in “green cleaning” techniques and product usage. Use of green chemicals, chemical dispensers that properly distribute the concentration. Use of microfiber cleaning rags and mops, both of which eliminate the spread of germs and bacteria.
- Installed a "Plumb-It" system to kitchen drains which helps keep drain lines clean and reduce grease caught in grease trap.

Future Projects:

- Plan to replace the "high pressure" boiler with more energy efficient pulse boilers that allow for the boiler usage to be decreased once desired temperature is reached.
- 75-90% of lighting will be replaced in the future with energy efficient lighting to include induction and L.E.D. lighting.