

The Palmer Events Center is committed to supporting and encouraging sustainable practices to protect and improve the environment.

The PEC:

- Has achieved LEED® Gold certification.
- Employs a LEED AP (accredited professional) and Master Electricians.
- Is an active Energy Star Partner with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Networks with the International Facility Managers Association and International Association of Venue Managers to stay educated in sustainable practices.

Energy Conservation

HVAC

- Reduced amount of waste by replacing 12" box filters with more efficient 2" filters.
- During event hours, leased space and pre-function areas are conditioned at 72 degrees, unless client requests otherwise.
- During non-event hours, leased space and pre-function areas are conditioned at 85 degrees.
- Administrative areas are only conditioned Monday thru Friday, 5:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- HVAC software utilizes outside air when it is cool enough to provide free cooling to facility.

Water Efficiency

- All fixtures retrofitted with low water, hands-free devices.
- Intelligent irrigation system reduces waste.
- Uses non-potable water.
- Green roof reduces storm water run off and heat island effect.
- Only native and adaptive plant species are used in landscapes.

Innovations

- The Austin Convention Center Department Green Team Committee has worked with the Austin Climate Protection Program to develop a first-of-its-kind Departmental Climate Protection Plan. This plan is intended to help reduce the Austin Convention Center Department's carbon footprint and help the City of Austin meet its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2020.
 - 3,450 carbon offsets were purchased for 2013.
 - The ACCD is in process of purchasing 3,570 carbon offsets for 2014 and 2,860 carbon offsets for 2015 to allow the Austin Convention Center Department to achieve carbon-neutral status 8 years ahead of 2020.
 - Carbon emissions are third-party verified every 3 years to insure carbon offsets purchased cover carbon emitted by the department.
- We are continually educating clients and attendees on the Palmer Events Center's sustainability initiatives.
- The Palmer Events Center's Catering Services team is equally committed to sustainability.

Recycling Efforts

The Department currently recycles the following items:

- paper
- cardboard
- metal
- batteries
- light bulbs and ballasts
- plastic
- toner
- glass
- carpet
- food scraps
- disposable food and beverage wares
- fuel and paint

Material Resources

- Recycled carpet, with zero emissions was installed throughout the facility.
- Recycled over 180,000 lbs. of old carpet.
- Over 300 tons (40 percent) of total waste generated was diverted from the landfill over the past four years.
- Over 100 tons (50 percent) of total waste generated was diverted from the landfill in 2016.
- Waste Management Team sorts and properly disposes of event waste.
- Recycling program increased through routine waste audits and policy development.

Lighting

- Exhibit hall and pre-function lighting replaced with fluorescent and LED lighting to reduce energy consumption and mercury content.
- Installed exterior lighting has been redirected to reduce light pollution.
- Lamps are the most energy efficient available, including using LED lighting when possible.
- After event hours, all unnecessary lighting is turned off.
- Exterior lighting is scheduled from approximately one hour after sunset to sunrise daily.
- Motion detectors are installed in most offices, restrooms and pre-function spaces.
- Reduced lighting is provided during set-up and tear-down of events.
- Older inefficient T12 fluorescent lighting was retrofitted with high efficiency T8 lamps and electronic ballasts.
- LED lighting installed in all meeting rooms.

Renewable Energy

Through a mix of on-site panels and Austin Energy's Green Choice Program, the Palmer Events Center is powered by 100% Renewable Energy.

In-House Management and Efforts

Indoor Environmental Quality

- All equipment purchased meets the recommended 70dba noise level.
- Continuous commissioning of all automated systems ensures optimal indoor comfort.
- Only products marked by a recognized third-party testing agency for high indoor air quality standards are purchased.

Green Cleaning Practices

- Green Seal Certified chemicals are utilized for 95% of all cleaning.
- Our Integrated Pest Management program utilizes 100% organic materials.
- Equipment purchases are compliant with LEED-EB Indoor Environmental Quality Standards.

Other Features

- All Marquees are LED's and are scheduled for use.
- The Department participates in Austin Energy's Smart Vending program and has vending misers on all refrigerated beverage machines.
- Staff is encouraged to participate in the Car2Go ride share program for business travel during the work day.
- Department uses only Flex Fuel and Hybrid vehicles.

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