

The Austin Convention Center is committed to supporting and encouraging sustainable practices to protect and improve the environment.

The ACC:

- 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 and United States Green Building Council to stay educated in sustainable practices.

Energy Conservation

Energy upgrades have contributed to a 34% utility savings.

HVAC

- Reduced amount of waste by replacing 12" box filters with more efficient 2" filters.
- 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.

Water Efficiency

- More than 90% of fixtures retrofitted with low water, hands-free devices.
- Intelligent irrigation system reduces waste.
- Only native and adaptive plant species are used in landscapes.

Innovations

- The Austin Convention Center 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 Convention Center's carbon footprint and help the City of Austin meet its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2020.
- We are continually educating clients and attendees on ACC's sustainability initiatives.
- The Austin Convention Center Catering Services team is equally committed to sustainability.
- Our website, www.austinconventioncenter.com, provides sustainability updates.

Recycling Efforts

The Department currently recycles the following items:

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

Material Resources

- Recycled carpet, with zero emissions is installed throughout the facility.
- Recycled over 180,000 lbs. of old carpet.
- Composting, Re-use and Recycling Program diverts up to 70% of all waste from the landfill and has maintained diversion rates of over 50% since 2011.
- 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 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 sunset to sunrise daily.
- Motion detectors are installed in most offices and restrooms.
- 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.
- More than 90% LED lighting installed in all meeting rooms.
- Lighting changes have resulted in a 67% wattage reduction from 1,975,539 watts to 636,662 watts.

Renewable Energy

Through Austin Energy's Green Choice Program, the Austin Convention 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

- Windows, mirrors, floors (concrete and carpeted) and other hard surfaces are cleaned with electrolyzed water, which is generated on-site by the Orbio® 5000-Sc, to replace standard cleaning chemicals.
- GreenSeal certified, UL Environment Environmental Choice certified and EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines approved chemicals are utilized for 60% of the remainder of cleaning not handled by the Orbio system.
- Our Integrated Pest Management program utilizes 100% organic materials.

Other Features

- New furnishings, such as elevator interiors, tables, seating and waste/compost/recycling containers, are sourced from manufacturers that utilize recycled aluminum, low VOC materials and/or other recycled materials all meeting Cradle2Cradle, UL GreenGuard, FSC or other internationally recognized 3rd party verified standards.
- The Department participates in Austin Energy's Smart Vending program and has vending misers on all refrigerated beverage machines.
- B-Cycle, a bike-sharing program and an alternative to carbon-emitting transportation, has two stations located at the Austin Convention Center. One station is at 499 E. 4th St. and the other is at 212 Trinity Street.
- Telecommute and 4/10 work schedules utilized throughout the year.
- Light rail station is within 500 feet of the facility.
- Electric charging stations provided in the 2nd Street parking garage located at 201 E 2nd St, Austin, TX 78701.

Updated April 2020

