



# GREEN INITIATIVES

at the  
WALTER E. WASHINGTON  
CONVENTION CENTER



The Walter E. Washington Convention Center is at the forefront of implementing environmentally-friendly initiatives to make our world a greener place. We are proud that the steps we are taking will have a greater impact on the health and well-being of our environment for years to come.

As one of the largest buildings in the District of Columbia, the Center has an extensive recycling program as well as a serious commitment to reducing our carbon footprint. We are making a difference every day.

# TAKING THE LEAD

# GREEN PRODUCTS

We use products that marry high quality with environmental responsibility at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in our quest to reduce human exposure to potentially harmful contaminants.

All copy rooms use Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forestry Initiative paper, and each Business Center copier offers double-sided printing capability.

Restrooms are stocked with 100% post-consumer waste paper products and Green Seal Certified GOJO hand soap.

Ecolab kitchen products and cleaning supplies are used by our catering partner, Centerplate/NBSE, and our housekeeping service partner, ARAMARK.

The paint, adhesives, sealants, and other building coatings we use throughout the facility contain low-to-no volatile organic compounds.



# ENERGY

The Walter E. Washington Convention Center was designed to be environmentally friendly.

Its modern, steel and glass exterior hints at the level of energy efficient practices used both inside and outside our three building facility.

The exterior walls are made of clear, low-emission glass that reflects natural light and minimizes indoor temperature fluctuations. Meeting rooms with exterior windows are equipped with system-controlled shades for solar heat management.

High-efficiency lighting and sensor systems are used throughout the building.

Our sophisticated lighting automation system operates at light levels of 10% when halls and public areas are unoccupied, 50% during move-in and move out, and 100% during an event. Occupancy sensor system controls are utilized in restrooms to ensure the smart use of electricity.

Overseeing all of this smart energy use is the Convention Center's central plant and its own dedicated energy management computer system.





Because water is one of the planet's most precious resources, we work to maximize its efficiency and minimize its impact on the local environment. Like most modern facilities, our bathroom fixtures are highly efficient to reduce the burden we place on the water supply and wastewater systems.

The Center's storm water management system was designed to support the District of Columbia's storm system. Rainwater is fed into 9 large underground collection tanks, which filter and slowly release the water into the District's storm system. This reduces peak demand on the city's storm system and improves the operation of its treatment plant.

# WATER

# EFFICIENCY

# RECYCLING



No green initiative would be complete without an extensive recycling program. Our “Know the Code” recycle compliance program uses a color-coded approach to separating waste at the source. We were the first convention center to offer color-coded recycling stations, which can be found in all exhibitor halls and meeting rooms.

The Center strives to recycle just about everything. The most common materials are glass, aluminum, plastic, cardboard, and mixed paper. Our e-cycling efforts divert batteries, fluorescent bulbs, toner and ink cartridges from conventional disposal. We also work within our community to reuse show materials including pallets, books, bags, giveaways, and more.

Our food service partner, Centerplate, has joined us in implementing a food composting program and recycling all used oil and grease. All leftover food is donated to the DC Central Kitchen, a nationally recognized non-profit organization that not only runs the largest soup kitchen in the city, but offers food service training to disadvantaged adults.

We offer event planners and show managers event-specific data to encourage recycling participation, and we work closely with them to improve awareness before their event to maximize waste diversion during their event.

The “Think Local” mantra is alive and well at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. We support as many local businesses as possible to reduce delivery time, distance, and emissions. Centerplate uses organic and locally grown foods whenever possible, while the facility as a whole seeks out products and services from businesses located right in the city.

Because the Convention Center is located in the heart of downtown, mass transit is easily accessible for all visitors. There is a Metro station right at the building, and the DC Circulator bus service provides transportation to and from hotels, museums, major attractions, and special events. The Center strictly enforces a District of Columbia law that restricts commuter buses from idling in place. All employees receive a transit benefit to encourage commuting by rail or bus, and bicycle racks are available at the entrances to the Center for both visitors and staff.

Our state-of-the-art HVAC system provides natural ventilation instead of mechanical air or heat during move-in and move-out, and carbon dioxide sensors ensure appropriate levels of

fresh air in meeting spaces, exhibit halls, and other public areas. The Center’s energy generators are equipped with chemical filters to reduce emissions.

We also participate in a clever “neutralize your carbon footprint” program started by Dell. When we buy a new PC, we plant a tree, and we average about 40 trees each year.



# CARBON FOOTPRINT

# ALERT TO

# DIVERT



While the Walter E. Washington Convention Center is committed to its comprehensive recycling program, we also assist our clients with preserving the planet and saving money.

Welcome to our Alert To Divert program, which combines an enhanced level of customer service with a strong focus on education.

We have teamed up with our service partner, ARAMARK, to work with clients from the earliest event planning stages. By helping our clients understand exactly how our recycling program works, we can raise awareness for event attendees.

The goal is simple: optimize waste separation and improve the diversion rate. The more that is recycled = the less trash generated. Less trash = fewer trash hauls. Fewer trash hauls = more savings. Remember, recycling hauls are free; while trash hauls are not.



For more information about the Walter E. Washington Convention Center's sustainability program, visit [www.dcconvention.com](http://www.dcconvention.com).

**MORE**

**INFORMATION**



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