



The
Baltimore
Convention Center



Annual Sustainability Report
2015/2016

In September of 2015 the Baltimore Convention Center adopted a new environmental policy that brought focus and clarity to its combined sustainability efforts across all organizational practices including, administrative, building maintenance, client services, procurement, and partner collaboration. This new commitment added new programs including Diversion by Donation and Pallet Recycling, and implementation of a building-wide Green Team. These programs address sustainability objectives and contribute to the Convention Center's corporate responsibility objectives through repurposing objects and food product for use in the surrounding community.

This report clearly defines the Center's environmental policy, highlights the successes of previous and newly implemented programs, including the energy performance agreement with Constellation Energy; detailing the overall savings in energy and energy costs. The annual sustainability report also outlines specific goals for improvement in current areas of focus and introduces new areas where the convention center can continue to make improvements on sustainability goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY The Baltimore Convention Center is committed to building, implementing and expanding on an innovative environmental management system that sustains the needs of the Center's daily operations, meets the standards of the City of Baltimore's sustainability efforts, and serves to education and benefit our staff, industry partners, and clientele on the importance of the reduction of our carbon footprint. The cornerstones of our environmental policy are: Waste Reduction and Diversion, Energy Conservation, Water Quality and Consumption, Air Quality, Responsible Procurement Processes, Continuing Education, and Community Involvement.

APEX/ASTM Certification

The Center successfully completed the certification process and achieved level one of the APEX/ ASTM Green Meetings for Venues Standard on September 15, 2015. This made Baltimore the first US destination on the east coast to achieve the certification.

Spearheaded by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Green Meeting Industry Council, the standards were

- are measurable
- address policies
- available in a tiered system to allow for different levels of engagement

developed in collaboration between APEX (the Convention Industry Council's Accepted Practices Exchange) and ASTM (An ANSI certified international standard development organization).

The purpose was to develop voluntary standards that can be implemented to create a more sustainable meeting or event. The standards:

- hold both the supplier and planner accountable for implementation
- are intended to be complimentary to other meeting industry recognized standards

Trade Show Highlights

Three trade shows stand out as examples of what can be done when a sustainability commitment is formed with clients.

Natural Products Expo East (NPEE) Sept 16-19, 2015

NPEE diverted 47.03% including over 15.5 tons of food to the Maryland Food Bank. Natural Products has been the catalyst for many of the initiatives the BCC has undertaken over the last 4 years including the APEX/ASTM Green Meetings certification.

The Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show (MANTS)- Jan 6-8, 2016

Due in large part to the enormous amount of live plant material that can be composted and hardscaping that can be donated to local non-profits, MANTS 2016 was able to reach a diversion rate of 84.21% which is an increase of over 11% from 2015.

Home Brewers Association "HomeBrew Con"- June 9-11, 2016

HomeBrewCon hadn't been in Baltimore for over 10 years but its return brought a firm commitment to sustainability and was able to achieve a 46.6% diversion rate which was largely in part to its 3.71 tons of beer bottles.



This program, started in 2014, began as an offshoot of the Combined Charities Program hosted annually by the City of Baltimore.

Challenged with the task of giving more than money to help non-profit organizations within the community, a relationship was built with the Chesapeake Chapter of Volunteers of America. This partnership developed from a one-time volunteer effort to build a playground. It grew into an extended partnership with annual giving events for Pratt House, a temporary housing community ran by the organization.

The success of the partnership with the Chesapeake Chapter of Volunteers of America led to an examination of how the Baltimore Convention Center could broaden its reach into the community while satisfying some of the objectives in the Convention Center’s environmental policy.

With this goal in mind, the Director of Client Services, Mac Campbell fostered and implemented the Diversion by Donation program which partners with community based not-for-profit groups to donate goods and food products that go unused by Center events.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Maryland Food Bank, Baltimore, MD- 16.65 tons-Takes all usable foodstuff and many registration bags to be used as shopping bags at their community centers.

Second Chance, Baltimore, MD- 13.49 tons- Takes all re-sellable furniture, fixtures, and construction materials to sell at their warehouse showroom to fund the operation of their job training programs for citizens experiencing obstacles in securing a job.

Baltimore Teacher Supply Swap: Baltimore, MD- .5 tons- Takes any office supplies or anything that can be used by public school teachers in Baltimore to aide in their classrooms.

Talmar Farms, Parkville, MD:- Non-food organic materials and hardscaping to use at their farm that engages citizens in work-skills development, vocational training and horticultural therapy.

Annual Totals

WASTE:

In fiscal year 2016 our waste diversion rate was 29%, a 5.75% increase over fiscal 2015. This equates to an additional 81 tons of waste diverted from our local landfill. The rate was just shy of our goal of 30%. Next year we hope to reach 32%.

PALLETS:

Our pallet recycling program was introduced in 2013 and has been a steady performer in reducing our footprint while also reducing our waste hauling costs. In FY16, we recycled 2740 pallets. The pallet program reduced waste removal costs by \$17,480.00.

CARDBOARD:

The Center produced 123 bales over the last fiscal year. Placed end to end they would stretch to over 1,000 ft. Moving forward we are looking at purchasing a multi-material baler for both cardboard and plastic sheeting.

COMPOSTING:

Food scraps and other organics collected by the Center are processed into a high-mineral-content fertilizer. Once processed, the compost is taken to a local composting facility and resold to Leafgro, a locally owned small business as soil conditioner.

Fiscal 2016 Waste Breakdown	
Category	Weight in Tons
Trash	739.72
Single Stream Recycling	127.51
Compost	22.441
Pallet	54.8
Cardboard Bales	55.25
Scrap Metal	9.59
Diversion by Donation	14.001
Food Bank	17.97
Total Waste	1040.54
Total Diversion	301.562
Total Diversion %	28.98%

Water and Energy

The Constellation Energy energy savings project came in at 1.2 million dollars from June 5, 2015 to June 5, 2016. This is \$123,558 over the projected savings. This equals over 5.3 million kWh and 6,028 steam MMBtu. The project, which started in 2012, included major upgrades to HVAC equipment, plumbing systems and a total replacement of our lighting controls including changing our entire exhibit hall lighting over from halogen to induction technology. Additionally in the past year many of our exterior lights have been switched out to LED bulbs.

Low Flow fixtures on our sinks and toilets have continued to show savings over the pre-2012 version and saved 6,748Kgal for the 12-month period analyzed.

These energy savings are equivalent to:
Planting 27,823 trees each year

Looking Ahead

New Trash Cans- Over several years the Convention Center will be converting all of its trash cans to a product custom made by Max-R. The cans made from 96% recycled milk jugs will help tell our sustainability narrative and make it easier for patrons to properly sort trash. The first cans will appear in the Center before the end of 2016.

Plastic Baling – In efforts to continue to reduce our impact on local landfills, the Center has identified plastic wrap as the next item to be removed from our waste stream. All clear plastic wrap or sheeting that is brought in by a show will be captured and baled to be sold on the commodities market. In addition, the Center will encourage all of its stakeholders to utilize recyclable plastic wrap. The program has started in a small scale and will grow in 2017.

Development of a Green Guide Program- Successfully engaging our patrons while visiting us is the number one way to increase our recycling rate. We have begun the process of reaching out to local universities to cultivate a list of student groups who would be interested in serving as Green Guides during events. The Guides would help patrons sort their waste to ensure a cleaner stream reaches the recycling center.

New Waste Hauling Contract- In 2017, the existing waste contract for the Center will expire and the solicitation process begins for a new 3-year contract. We will be aggressively updating the specifications of our solicitation to ensure that the hauler awarded with the contract will be at the forefront of sustainable efforts in the Mid-Atlantic and partner with us to set new benchmarks of what is possible with waste diversion and how metrics are reported back to the Center.

Development of a Carbon Offset Program- Many clients want to find ways to help reduce the negative environmental impact that their event has on Baltimore City. The Center is partnering with the Department of Sustainability to create a list of organizations that can provide local carbon offsetting services.

West Side Cooling Tower Renovation- In late 2016, the cooling tower on the west side of the Center will be replaced and upgraded to state of the art equipment. The existing tower, which was installed in 1997, no longer runs as efficiently as it was designed to. The new tower will reduce the amount of energy needed to provide conditioned air to the building significantly.