



## **McCormick Place Convention Center Environmental Policy**

McCormick Place Convention Center recognizes the importance of environmental practices to our cities and our country. We pride our reputation on being a venue that provides, green events for today, while providing a clean environment for the future. We have incorporated sustainability into one of our five main business plan strategies. To ensure that all McCormick Place events utilize sustainable practices, we have committed to being a green facility and have prioritized green initiatives in the following six areas:

### *Energy*

The McCormick Place West Building highlights our dedication to energy efficiency. McCormick Place West received LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. We constantly look for simple ways to efficiently use energy, while maintaining the event quality expected from McCormick Place.

We believe small practices to reduce energy use can result in meaningful changes. As a result, we monitor and track our HVAC, lighting, and plug loads daily to reflect true electricity need. Energy-efficient lighting is currently being installed throughout the facility, and our lights are turned off, escalators' powered down in areas not in use. In addition, our energy audit programs identify energy efficiency retro-commissioning projects and provide revisions to our preventive maintenance procedures as well as establishing benchmarking goals.

Finally, in order to lower our reliance on non-renewable, pollution-producing fossil fuels, McCormick Place has committed to use Green-e Wind Energy certified renewable energy certificates (RECs) to offset 100% of the facilities energy usage.

### *Air Quality*

McCormick Place supports utilizing alternate public transportation as an environmentally- friendly mode of travel. The Convention Center can be accessed by the Chicago Transit Authority bus lines. Also, there is an on-site Metra stop which connects McCormick Place to the heart of the loop. To incentivize the use of responsible auto-motive travel, we have reserved 5% of our parking for low-emitting and fuel efficient vehicles, and have an anti-idling control policy. We are a cyclist-friendly venue, and have bike rack locations for two-wheeled commuters.

All McCormick Place facilities are smoke-free zones. In addition, McCormick Place requires propane forklifts, which reduce carbon emissions. The Convention Center security and safety detail unit uses hybrid vehicles as well. Additionally, our LEED certified West Building features a permanent carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) monitoring system that provides feedback on space ventilation performance.

## *Water*

Lake Michigan provides Chicago with the abundant resource of fresh water. We want to ensure the health of such a valuable natural resource, and reflect water-efficient strategies in our daily operations. McCormick Place employs a highly efficient irrigation system consisting of timed sprinklers, moisture sensors, and drip irrigation tubes which reduce the use of potable water for landscape irrigation by 50%. Approximately 55 million gallons of storm water is diverted from city sewers, per year, by means of a 3,100 ft long storm water tunnel, located 150 feet below grade. Storm water is transferred from the building's roof to Lake Michigan.

We encourage the shift from bottled water to the waste-reducing and ethically responsible refillable water bottles. McCormick Place provides contractors for water dispensers, as well as options to utilize the City of Chicago's water. McCormick Place also provides water stations for meetings room and public spaces, as well as water service to head tables.

## *Procurement*

McCormick Place, through its corporate social responsibility, is committed to protecting the environment, and the health of the public, the client and our employees. McCormick Place facilities are directed to procure cost-competitive products and services that minimize resource consumption and negative impacts on the environment, resources and human health.

McCormick defines Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) and services as having a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products and services that serve the same purpose.

## *Waste Management*

McCormick Place values the three R's of waste management: reduce, reuse, and recycle.

We incorporate recycling and composting at our events by providing compactors and open box containers for paper, bottles, cans, construction debris and general waste landfill. Additionally, our waste hauler sorts cardboard, plastic, paper, and aluminum, so each item can be meaningfully repurposed. Each of our buildings comes equipped with a trash compactor designed to hold recyclable co-mingled waste. This practice has increased our diversion rate percentages.

McCormick Place does not use styrofoam or polystyrene products for catered events, and instead features biodegradable flatware, straws, serving dishes, and cups. In addition, postconsumer recycled paper is used in order to reduce waste.

McCormick Place utilizes environmentally friendly cleaning supplies and pest control practices. By using Green Seal cleaning products, including the general purpose cleaner, the neutral floor cleaner, the glass cleaner, the air freshener, and bathroom cleaner, we limit the use of toxic chemicals in our cleaning and housekeeping. All potential pest abatement is handled with the smallest environmental impact possible.

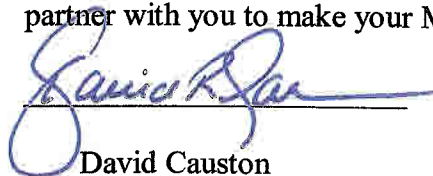
*Community Partners*

Reducing environmental impact requires cooperation and collaboration. McCormick Place embraces the opportunity for alliance with other teams committed to going green. Our new food service provider, SAVOR... is an industry leader for sustainable initiatives. SAVOR... tends the two-acre rooftop garden at McCormick Place and in doing so helps conserve heat energy, and provides a local source for herbs and vegetables. SAVOR also utilizes local sourcing within 250 miles for produce, meat and seafood.

McCormick Place encourages sustainable efforts through education, defined expectations and example. If you are a service partner, customer, or vendor, and have new ideas about incorporating green initiatives to your experience, we look forward to your partnership and welcome your feedback.

*Tomorrow*

McCormick Place sustainability program will continue to evolve as we continue to incorporate ways to manage energy, waste, water, and community partnerships that are committed to a green planet. Our Green Action Team looks forward to working with your event, and would like to learn how to best partner with you to make your McCormick Place experience successful and sustainable.



David Causton

General Manager

3.21.13

Date



Kevin Lavin

Sustainability Manager

3-21-13

Date

