



WHY GREEN MEETINGS

SUSTAINABLE EVENTS

In 2014 Business Event Canada reported 2.5 million international visitors, of which 24% of international tourism revenue is business travel. Further, Canada is the #1 location for outbound business meetings from the US, all combined over \$258 million in revenue from meetings and events in Canada.

Consider if every one of those meetings, each delegate and every venue practiced sustainable meeting standards. What kind of savings, financial and environmental could that produce?

Benefits of Green Meetings?

Cost savings. The green choice can sometimes be the less expensive choice. In some instances, it may be the more expensive choice; however it will be the more efficient and environmentally friendly choice.

Reputation. Is your company known for its commitment to the environment, corporate social responsibility and community engagement? If no, a green meeting will help build the foundations for these policies and practices within your company.

Awareness. Raising awareness of the best practices your company complies with within your business community will help instigate other companies to become involved and seek education.

Most importantly, the Environment. Taking measures today to secure a brighter future. Each meeting can make a difference in the world.

PLANNER CHECKLIST

MEETING PREPARATION & COMMUNICATION

- Create a meeting application that delegates can download on a smart phone. The ‘meeting app’ can include all the meeting information therefore eliminating the requirement to print materials.
- Provide printed copies of speeches or presentations upon request and print with soy or vegetable based inks.
- Raise awareness about environmentally friendly practices by communicating the “Green Event” you are having to your attendees, stakeholders, media. Advertise your accomplishments.
- Give delegates the option of having their names removed from event mailing lists.



BUILDING, SET UP AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- No paper or pens used on delegate tables
- Collect and recycle all name badges at the end of your event
- Leftover items or decorations may be given to local charities, schools or recycled.
- Recycle toner cartridges and other items from your onsite office
- Tablecloths and skirting are optional –to reduce water usage and detergents
- Select conference gifts that are useful and not over-packaged such as local experiences or products
- Use recycled materials or live plants/flowers for décor and centerpieces
- Order your signage through a local supplier to avoid shipping or design reusable signage

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- Water & Juice to be served in pitchers –no bottled water
- Recycle all plastics, aluminum and glass.
- Select low impact food production for your menus such as seafood and vegetarian.
- Reduce food miles by selecting locally grown products such as BC Wines.
- Serve Fair Trade coffee.

TRANSPORTATION

- Inform all attendees about environmentally preferable choices such as coach travel, public transit, and carpooling.
- Ask transport providers to minimize idling and/or use of air conditioners –especially if there are no passengers in the vehicle.
- Provide transit and walking maps for all local activities.

ACCOMMODATION

- Choose accommodation within walking distance to the conference venue.
- Consider a hotels ‘Green Key’ rating or ask about the hotels environmental policies when making a decision.
- For Hotels that don’t have dispensers for shampoo, soap etc. or don’t already donate open toiletries and soap, ask them to do so for your attendees or have a collection box available in the conference centre. Work with local supporters to find organizations that can use these.

WHISTLER CONFERENCE CENTRE INITIATIVES

THE BUILDING

At the Whistler Conference Centre, we know the importance of our environment and as a result, we have followed the principles of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Building Rating system (LEED) certification during our most recent renovation in 2001-2003.



A construction waste management plan was used whereby 75% of all materials that came out of the building were diverted from the landfill and reusable and recyclable materials were directed to appropriate sites. Recycled materials included: 1700 tons of concrete, 4.5 tons of carpet, and 32 tons of reinforcing steel.

When refurbishing the building many of the materials were made from recyclable materials including:

- Carpet Tiles –Made from recycled material, these carpet tiles are easily replaced as required; eliminating the need for total carpet replacement for a longer period of time.
- Wooden Beams (Grand Foyer) –These beautiful recycled beams were stripped and cleaned using a natural corn blasting process. No water was used.
- All-Natural Rock (Features & Fireplace) –The rock was harvested from the surrounding area; Brohm stone from the Squamish Quarry, boulders from Whistler Mountain.
- Vertical Woodend Column Covers(Grand Foyer) –These impressive structures are comprised of recycled six 10 ton wood beams from the original Conference Centre structure.
- Our roof is made from 80% recycled materials, which will achieve higher levels of solar reflectivity due to the light colored materials used, reducing the “heat island effect”.

Rumford fireplace –the 40-foot Rumford fireplace is shallow to reflect more heat, and it has a streamlined throat to eliminate turbulence and carry away the smoke with little loss of heated room air.

Our water conservation initiatives include low flow flush toilets and motion sensor sinks for all main washrooms.

All of our air handling units, including chillers, heating, and exhaust fans, are digitally controlled to efficiently control usage of these systems.

Our CFC and HCFC-free chiller modules store energy gained from the condenser loop within the system. This system also automatically adjusts to the outside temperatures for further efficiency.

Our conference centre has lessened its greenhouse gas emissions by 66% and energy consumption has been reduced by 40%.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

The Sodexo Live! team at Whistler Conference Centre is committed to producing successful, sustainable events. All food and beverage purchases are made within the parameters of the Sodexo Live! Environmental Purchasing policy.

Sodexo Live! priorities for support of local Food and Beverage suppliers are:

- Within 150 miles of Vancouver (Meat, Dairy, Eggs)
- Within British Columbia (Wines, Beers, Bottle Products)
- Within Canada (as required)
- Internationally sourced (only when requested by Clients/Meeting Planners)



While contending with the seasonal challenges of our British Columbia climate and working within the parameters of our clients' event budgets, wherever possible Sodexo Live! aims to obtain locally produced organic goods.

Our Food and Beverage purchasing priorities for Organic products are:

- Organic and Local
- Local, Conventionally Grown
- Organic
- Not local/ not organic

In addition to the above purchasing Sodexo Live! is proudly a partner of Vancouver Aquarium Oceanwise program since 2008. This program ensures venues comply with the purchase of sustainable seafood from an approved list supported by Vancouver Aquarium.

WASTE & RECYCLING

The Building Operations department has been monitoring the Centre's waste output since 2009.

A comprehensive waste recycle program has been put into practice and is designed to reduce the amount of waste that goes into local landfills. This includes:

- Cardboard
- Batteries
- Plastics
- Paper
- Organic Waste
- Aluminum
- Toner Cartridges
- Glass
- Dry-cleaning Hangers

The Centre's current waste diversion rate is 90%.