

OVERLAND PARK CONVENTION CENTER

SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

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OVERLAND PARK

BEST SMALL CONVENTION CENTER
IN NORTH AMERICA



INTRODUCTION

The Overland Park Convention Center Sustainability Program, is a set of four integrated and interrelated goals focusing on responsible waste management, energy efficiency, resource conservation and green purchasing.

While determining these initiatives we engaged local environmental organizations and worked with our leadership team to ensure alignment; and identified new ways to revisit our internal sustainability operations across all departments.

In partnership with our city officials, corporate leadership, clients and community partners, we are committed to enhancing our sustainable practices at the Overland Park Convention Center. Our primary goal is to reduce our carbon impact on the environment while being the best stewards we can be with the resources available to us.

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

The Overland Park Convention Center prioritizes the following four interrelated Sustainable Development Initiatives categorized below in alignment with our business strategies and goals.



1

**WASTE
MANAGEMENT**



2

**GREEN
PURCHASING**



3

**ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**



4

**RESOURCE
CONSERVATION**



1

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RECYCLING • COMPOSTING



WHAT UPGRADES ARE BEING MADE TO RECYCLING?

The convention center upgraded all back of house and administrative trash and recycle areas with color-identified containers to expand upon the current recycling plan. Containers for glass, compost, paper, plastics, aluminum, waste and batteries will be included.

The practice of e-recycling will also continue throughout all departments. The culinary team will continue the practice of reclaiming and recycling fryer oil, as well as donating unserved, prepared food.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

GLASS

COMPOST

PAPER

PLASTIC

ALUMINUM

WASTE

BATTERIES



LOW WASTE KITCHEN

With the addition of farm-to-table Executive Chef David Ruiz, known for his commitment to sustainable cooking, the convention center has adopted low-waste packaging and food recycling practices. A recent example includes repurposing 75 pounds of leftover berries into jam, which was later used in desserts for a future client event, significantly reducing waste.

Learn more about our [award-winning chef](#).

Pete's Garden Partnership

Through this partnership, surplus meals from the convention center are donated to Pete's Garden, where they are repurposed into nutritious meals for families in need. This initiative helps reduce food waste while supporting the local community and promoting food security. Learn more about [Pete's Garden](#).

WASTE MANAGEMENT



What happens to food waste?

FOOD COMPOSTING

The Overland Park Convention Center is enrolled in the FRED (Food Residual Environmental Diversion) program. The goal of FRED is to reduce the amount of food waste going into local landfills and recycle valuable organic resources.

FRED provides waste audits, training and education designed around venue-specific needs and ensures that your food waste is recovered and recycled efficiently.

Food waste is picked up as-needed and taken to a recycling center for composting.





What else does FRED compost?

NON-FOOD COMPOSTING

FRED non-food compost collection items include:

- Coffee Grounds, Filters & Tea Bags
- Food Soiled Paper
- Kitchen Paper Towels
- Uncoated Paper Take-Out Containers
- Pizza Delivery Boxes
- Paper Napkins
- Restroom Tissues & Paper Towels
- Waxed Cardboard & Paper
- Uncoated Paper Cups, Plates
- Milk and Juice Cartons
- Plant & Wood Scraps
- Plants & Flowers (No flower pots)
- Landscape Vegetation (less than 4' long 4"diam.)

2

GREEN PURCHASING

FOOD • PRODUCTS

Executive Chef David Ruiz prioritizes purchasing locally grown and baked products through a partnership with the Overland Park Farmers Market, ensuring fresh ingredients from local farmers. He incorporates at least one locally sourced item in each client menu, helping to reduce our carbon footprint.

GREEN PURCHASING





SUSTAINABLE DINNERWARE

This year, the food and beverage department will expand upon the current recycling plan by purchasing compostable dinnerware (plates, bowls and cutlery) and recycled cups and napkins for disposable items.





WHAT IS GREEN CLEANING?

Throughout the entire facility, the environmental services department uses green cleaning methods and products with environmentally friendly ingredients and procedures which are designed to preserve human health and environmental quality.

Aqueous Ozone is an EPA and FDA approved 100% natural cleaner made up of oxygen atoms, oxygen molecules and water molecules. This combination creates a highly effective cleaning agent that breaks down dirt, grease, and other contaminants in the same way as toxic cleaners, but naturally.



RESTROOM FACILITIES

Paper Towels

USDA Certified Biobased paper towels, contain 40% or more post-consumer recycled fiber to meet EPA Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines — SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® certified to ensure fibers are from responsible and legal sources

Hand Soap

Use of green seal compliant foam soap in all bathrooms located throughout the venue



3

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

HVAC • LIGHTING • ROOFING



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In 2017, a \$2 million energy conservation program was completed to reduce utility consumption across the entire venue. Following an investment-grade audit, the following key projects were selected for implementation:

1. Update and expand building automation system
2. Replace cooling tower
3. Retrofit existing lighting system



15%

Reduction in utility savings from retrofitting lighting.

The first priority of the initiative was to replace venue lighting with energy efficient LEDs throughout the year with funding coming directly from the convention center's account as opposed to making it a capital project. The early comparisons with previous utility bills have yielded a 15% reduction in overall utility costs.

NEXT STEPS: How do we become more energy efficient?

COMPLETE VENUE LIGHTING FIXTURE REPLACEMENT

While yearly retrofitting continues and is an important first step toward energy efficiency, the next lighting project entails a complete replacement for all lighting fixtures throughout the entire facility. This increased efficiency will require less electricity therefore reducing carbon dioxide emissions to the environment.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY



NEXT STEPS: How do we become more energy efficient?

ROOF REPLACEMENT

In 2022, the R-value (insulation rating) of your roof nearly doubled from R17 after the installation of a new roofing system. This significant improvement enhances energy efficiency and reduces overall costs. Additionally, the new roof features a thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) membrane, which is 100% recyclable. At the end of its lifespan, it can be repurposed rather than contributing to landfill waste, supporting both sustainability and environmental responsibility.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



\$5,136

Annual savings from the complete roof replacement are estimated to be \$5,136

\$3,876

Annual Electrical
Savings

\$1,260

Annual Natural Gas
Savings



4

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

PEOPLE • UTILITIES



HOW DO YOU CULTIVATE CHANGE? OUR PEOPLE

Communication is key for investing—investing in our facility and in our environment.

Employees are engaged monthly at staff meetings, reminding them to turn off lights when leaving rooms and offices, turn off computers when leaving for the day, and conserving paper by using both sides of scratch paper and printing wisely. However big or small the effort, we are constantly working to reduce our carbon footprint.

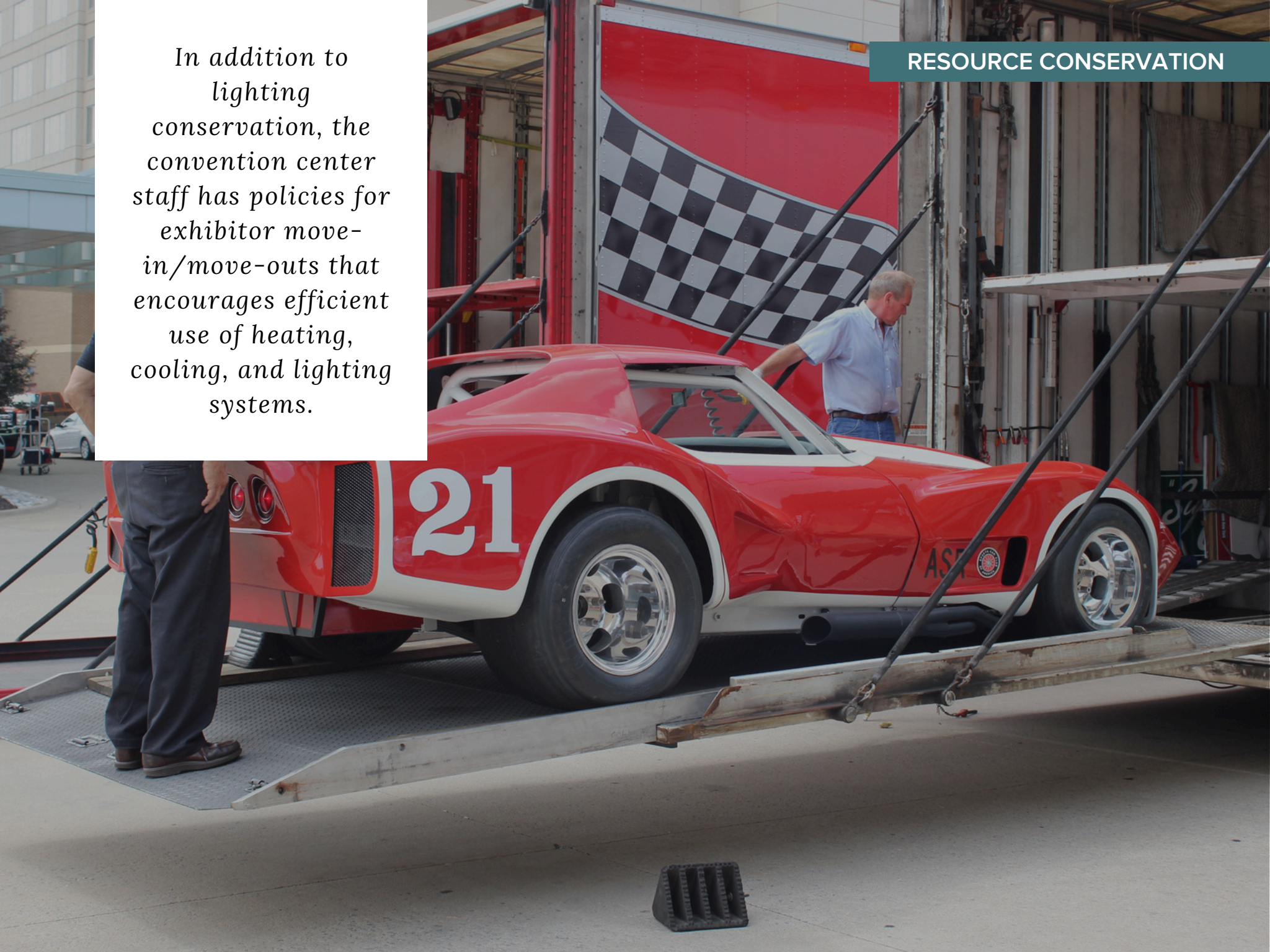


LIGHTING CONSERVATION POLICIES

	Dark Days	Move-In	Event Days	Move-Out
Pre-Function	Off	Daylight Harvesting	Daylight Harvesting	Move-Out Area
Art & Entry	Off	Off	On	Off
TV/Computers	Off	Cyber Cafe Only	On	Off
Escalators	Off	Off	On	On
Exhibit Hall	Off	1/2 Lighting	Event Based	1/2 Lighting
Rooms	Off	Preset 8	Event Based	Preset 8
*1/2 Lighting for Staff				

In addition to lighting conservation, the convention center staff has policies for exhibitor move-in/move-outs that encourages efficient use of heating, cooling, and lighting systems.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION





OTHER RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Water Faucets

Water is saved by using low-flow, automatic faucets and water efficient toilets in all restrooms

Paper Towel & Soap Dispensers

Automatic dispensers are used in all bathrooms to reduce paper and product waste

Occupancy Light Sensors

Automatic light sensors are used in all restrooms, storage closets and hallways



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