

Portland Expo Center's Green Efforts

The Portland Expo Center takes its commitment to the environment seriously, and with over 450,000 attendees visiting the Expo Center throughout the year, we strive to work with producers, patrons and exhibitors to create events that are as green-minded as possible. Expo Center staff incorporates eco-friendly practices into our daily practices from operations to janitorial, to catering to administration. Additionally, we offer recycling and share environmentally awareness practices with our exhibitors and visitors. By making these services easily accessible and cooperative, the Expo Center decrease's our impact on the waste contributed to local area landfills.

Recycling Efforts

As shown below, twelve target goals for recyclable material are diverted from landfills through these efforts. In comparison to last year, the diversion rate has increased from 17% in 2009 to 40% in 2010! The combined efforts of Expo staff, patrons, producers, exhibitors, and teams of volunteers all contribute to this success. The use of bilingual signage also assists in the overall effort.

The Expo Center recycles all manner of:

- Paper products
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic bottles
- Glass
- Cardboard
- Wood
- Concrete
- Electronics
- Sod/Vegetation
- Food Compost
- Kitchen Oil
- Metal

How do we do it?

- **Clear Stream Recycling Containers:** Clear and identifiable recycling stations are available at all events. With over 20 containers throughout the facility, the Expo is able to separate the items at the waste site. Patron education and producer assistance makes these efforts successful. Patrons can recycle plastic, aluminum and paper all from the show floor.
- **Additional Containers during Set-up and Tear-Down:** Numerous containers with clear and specific signage are provided as exhibitors and producers arrive to set-up and again at the close of the event (move-out). These timelines involve plenty of materials acceptable for diversion from land fills – these efforts produce a majority of our diverted recyclable material.
- **Portland Composts!:** Through Expo and Aramark's efforts in food composting, leftovers and kitchen scraps are returned to the environment via a program of Metro and the City of Portland. Since 2007 alone, over 12 tons of food waste has been turned into a wide variety of compost and soil products.
- **Biodegradable and/or Compostable Cups, Utensils, Straws, Plates, and Trash Bags:** Through use of materials based mainly from corn or corn starch these items can either be composted or biodegrade over time. This major change by Aramark has been a successful component of our green initiatives.

Portland Expo Center's Green Efforts cont...

Going the extra mile – a wide variety Expo's sustainable efforts.

- **Use of Sustainable Cleaning Products:** Over 333,000 square feet of exhibit hall space is a lot of area to clean. Sustainable Earth Green Cleaning Products are used for cleaning of the facility. These products meet the environmental and health safety criteria of US EPA's *Design for the Environment* (DfE) program. Further information on the program can be found on-line here: <http://www.epa.gov/dfe>
- **Local , Natural and Sustainable Products:** The Expo Center and Aramark purchase and serve Oregon Country Natural Beef, Starbucks Organic Shade Grown Coffee, and utilize Zero Trans Fat Fryer Oil. Use of these products upholds our commitment to provide sustainable products whenever possible.
- **Increased Efficiency:** The Expo staff and many of those involved have become much more efficient in capturing recyclables – especially during move-in and move-out. Both through hands-on effort and education, the steady diversion rate increases over the years show we are doing a better job getting the job done.
- **Use of Recyclable Products:** Whenever possible, administrative staff reuses items as well as focus on purchasing office products that meet our commitment to green standards.
- **Capital Upgrades and Improvements:** Multiple areas such as the overhead lighting in Hall C, have been retrofitted to decrease the energy consumption while at the same time providing better lighting. Energy saving bulbs and many other energy conscious upgrades have been, and are in the development for future improvements.

Recognition for efforts:



The Portland Expo Center is now *Recycle at Work Certified*, meaning the Expo Center drastically improved our recycling practices and reduced the amount of waste it produces by implementing ALL of Metro and the City of Portland's five recycling steps found here: www.recycleatwork.com. This team effort continues to be a goal for us in years to come.

Portland Expo Center's Green Efforts cont...

Recycling Report and Diversion Rate of 40%!

The Expo Center has increased the overall diversion rate from 17% in Fiscal 2008-2009 to 40% in the fiscal year just ended, FY 2009-2010. That's a substantial increase and a lot of hard work to educate patrons, clients and a fundamental change in our approaches. Well done Expo Operations!

| FY 2009-2010 Expo Center Recycling Report | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Item | 1st Qtr | 2nd Qtr | 3rd Qtr | 4th Qtr | Total |
| Cardboard | 5.06 | 12.39 | 14.72 | 3.29 | 35.46 |
| Bottles/Cans *R/C | 0.33 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.37 | 1.58 |
| Glass *R/C | | 0.03 | | 0.18 | 0.21 |
| Dry MSW* | 7.46 | 6.47 | 4.02 | 4.70 | 22.65 |
| Sod/Plant Material | | | 4.49 | 1.77 | 6.26 |
| Rock/Concrete | | | 25.50 | | 25.50 |
| Styrafoam | | | 0.11 | | 0.11 |
| Wood | | 3.54 | 9.40 | | 12.94 |
| Electronics | | | | | 0.00 |
| Metal | | 1.88 | | 4.80 | 6.68 |
| Organic Compost *R/C | 1.44 | 2.88 | 2.71 | 3.02 | 10.05 |
| Recycling Total | 14.29 | 27.63 | 61.39 | 18.13 | 121.44 |
| Waste | 31.37 | 41.89 | 71.74 | 34.80 | 179.80 |
| Diversion Rate | 31.30% | 39.74% | 46.11% | 34.25% | 40.31% |

The Portland Expo Center (www.expoctr.org) is owned by Metro regional government and managed by the Metropolitan Exposition and Recreation Commission (MERC).