FY19
ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT REPORT
THE OREGON CONVENTION CENTER IS THE MOST SUSTAINABLY OPERATED VENUE IN THE COUNTRY.

hands down.
Successfully recertifying in two prestigious programs this year has further secured us among the most forward-thinking convention centers in the world.

We are the only convention center in the nation to be awarded LEED Platinum status for Existing Buildings. That means that the OCC does the “day-to-day” better than everyone else. Our venue wasn’t built green. But we run it that way.

The OCC is also the only venue in the United States to be awarded the highest level of certification as a Green Venue through the Events Industry Council. We outperform our peers in the convention business, and also sports arenas and other large meeting spaces!
Meet Mr. S!

If you haven’t met him, swing by the tiny room outside the Operations office. That’s where he lives.

He’ll take your spent batteries, wine corks, plastic bags, and old cell phones. He’ll make sure they get recycled appropriately. And he’ll do it with a smile.

A new vinyl banner donation partnership

Instead of our local landfill, vinyl banners hanging from our poles and walls will now be headed to Portland Banner Bags, where they will be turned into fashionable accessories for the world to enjoy!

Join the Trash Mob!

Some overachieving OCC employees spent a lunchbreak partnering with SOLVE and GoLloyd to clean up the neighborhood! They picked up 200 pounds of trash, and looked pretty spiffy doing it, too.

Stay tuned, because we’ll recreate the event in the coming months...
A recent audit of our waste streams shows us how we’re doing (and what we’re not doing)

We’ve again teamed up with students at Portland State University to conduct a 24-hour audit of all the waste generated at our facility. Everything is separated and sorted by hand, and a report is generated letting us know how we did. If you’re interested, feel free to ask the Sustainability Department. It’s a fascinating snapshot that lets us know what we did well, and what we did not so well...
waste diversion

We set a goal to divert 70% of our venue’s waste away from the landfill and toward a better option. Here’s some of what we tried to get there:

- We increased communication with clients about our efforts, and now send an email 9 months, 90 days, and 45 days before an event.
- We piloted our Sustainable Vendor Program, with allows exhibitors to recycle in their booths.
- We expanded our Communication Kits for Event Planners and Exhibitors.
- We piloted expansion of the creation of post-event Sustainability Reports for clients.
- We increased our donation partnerships with local organizations.
- We updated the recycling signage in Back-of-House locations.
- We partnered with pacificwild to eliminate plastic from pre-conference meetings.

And if we include the monumental effort taken to repurpose the iconic and wistfully missed carpet replaced in public spaces, we hit our goal of 70%.

To make sure that we get to 70% in the years to come, here’s what we have planned:

- Trainings held for OCC and catering staff
- Targeted post-event trash sorts
- New trash and recycling signage in public-facing areas
- A shift to durable plates and cutlery in concession areas
- An inexpensive, durable coffee cup upsell in Portland Roasting locations

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![Material diversion without carpet](image)
by the numbers

Here’s how we did this year:

141 tons food waste composted
56 tons cardboard recycled
110 tons carpet recycled
205 tons landfill-bound waste
23 tons items donated
In 2016, Metro Council approved a Strategic Plan to Advance Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. In addition to laying out 5 goals that will help to advance equitable outcomes in our region, this plan outlined the process by which each Metro department and venue would create an Equity Plan of their own. How the OCC sees itself fit into these 5 goals will become the backbone of our own Plan. And like the rest of Metro, we will focus on race in particular when crafting our plan. Here’s why:

We acknowledge that people of color across the region experience the most disparate outcomes in nearly every category of well-being including housing, transportation, access to nature, education and health. Metro has identified racial equity as its strategic direction to eliminate the disparities that people of color experience in areas related to our policies, programs, services and destinations. Focusing on racial equity will result in all people of the region having the opportunity to thrive in all aspects of social well-being.

By addressing the barriers experienced by communities of color in our region, we will effectively also identify solutions and remove barriers for other groups, like women, low-income residents, people with disabilities, LGBTQ community, older adults and young people. And by leading with race when creating our Equity Plan, the OCC will ensure that we are doing all that we can for all those who walk through our doors, and many more that don’t.

**METRO’S 5 EQUITY GOALS**

1. Convene and support regional partners to advance racial equity.


3. Hire, train, and promote a racially diverse workforce.

4. Create a safe and welcoming destination.

5. Ensure our resource allocation advances racial equity.

**FOLLOW ALONG, AND TAKE PART!**

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