
Sustainability Efforts

LEED Gold Certification

A LEED Gold Facility, the Global Center for Health Innovation (Global Center) and the Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland are working to reduce environmental impact. In tandem with social responsibility and industry trends, the complex conserves resources, implements recycling initiatives both internally and for organizations hosting meetings and utilizes environmentally friendly products and practices.

In 2014, the Global Center for Health Innovation and Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland complex was awarded LEED for Building Design and Construction (LEED-BD+C) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

The Global Center and Convention Center earned LEED certification for green design and construction in the areas of energy use, lighting, water, and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. The comprehensive sustainability plan includes reducing the quantity of water needed in the design by using more efficient fixtures, optimizing energy efficiency through lighting and HVAC designs, purchasing materials with less environmental impact, and eliminating sources of indoor air pollution during demolition, construction and management of the facility.

Eco-Friendly Design:

The complex has several environmentally friendly design elements to reduce its footprint, including:

- **Lighting:** The complex is equipped with a state-of-the-art lighting control system that is highly programmable and able to use daylight harvesting that takes advantage of extensive natural light to reduce energy use.
- **Low Flow Water Systems:** The complex has significant water reduction systems such as low-flow washroom fixtures and the processing of lower water loads in sinks.
- **Water Re-fill Stations:** Placed strategically throughout the complex, water re-fill stations help reduce the need for more plastic water bottles.
- **Green Rooftop:** The convention center was constructed below grade, allowing for the efficient use of the Earth's geothermal and insulating properties. This helps reduce heat loss and helps maintain a steady temperature. The green rooftop reduces sewer overflow with extensive plant life and soil materials that efficiently filter storm water.
- **Grind2Energy:** Food waste is processed into a premium, energy-rich material for anaerobic digestion. During the process, the microorganisms produce methane, which is captured as biogas and taken off-site to create electricity and CNG.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:

A comprehensive co-mingled, single-stream recycling program strives to divert more than 80% of waste from landfills to recycling centers via reducing, reusing, and recycling paper, cardboard, metal, aluminum, glass, and plastic in concert with a food waste re-capture program.

In 2015, the complex recycled over 120 tons of trash, with cardboard accounting for almost 80 tons. To allow for quick and efficient recycling for employees and visitors, the complex set up several recycling containers and areas for paper, plastic, glass, cardboard, batteries and more. As the premier meeting and convention space in Cleveland, the complex had almost 178 tons of waste in 2015; however, due to increased recycling initiatives, more than 67 percent of the waste was recycled and reused.