

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre's Environmental Credentials

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre has a strong commitment to economic, environmental and social responsibility. This commitment is fundamental to the daily business operations of the Centre and provides the framework for a wide ranging and robust CSR agenda.

The Centre's environmental credentials have been acknowledged through the awarding of Silver EarthCheck accreditation, Gold Certification in AIPC's (International Association of Congress Centres) International Quality Standards Program which evaluates key areas of convention centre performance including in the environmental and community sectors. The Centre was also the recipient of the IMEX 2010 Green Supplier Silver Award which recognises environmental excellence and innovation within the international meetings industry.

The Centre has established management structures and systems to drive sustainability initiatives and practices across the entire operation.

These include:

- The Environmental Task Force, responsible for identifying and delivering initiatives that will reduce the Centre's environmental impact
- Community Cabinet, the strategic driver of the Centre's comprehensive community engagement program.

There are two principal components of the Centre's CSR strategy - *ecowatch* which encompasses all things environmental, and *communitywatch* which presides over all community based activities.

Caring for our environment - ecowatch

BCEC is uncompromising in its commitment to setting benchmark industry standards for sustainable operations through following best practice initiatives including:

**The following represents a selection of initiatives*

Energy and waste

- Introduction of a customised carbon calculator, a first in Australian Convention Centres, designed to help clients make informed choices to reduce the carbon footprint of their events and provide the opportunity for staging carbon neutral events.
- Creation of an electronic 'Dashboard' to measure the Centre's energy conservation and waste reduction to continually monitor sustainability performance against benchmarked targets. The Dashboard information is communicated to visitors via the Centre's digital signage network.
- The purchase of Green Power for the Centre's Administration Offices
- Partnering with clients to reduce their carbon footprint and providing a Green Event Checklist as a guide to the staging of green events, as well as the services of the carbon calculator
- Purchase of a Bio Bin, an organic waste management and compost system reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill and used for compost or as a fuel source for

green power generation. Currently in discussion with Brisbane City Council to extend the use and impact of this Bio Bin to include the South Bank Precinct

- Retrofit of the Centre's escalators to sensor mode resulting in a 30% reduction in escalator energy usage
- Refit of control lighting to the Centre's car park areas and refit of energy efficient lamps and controls in the Centre's exhibition halls and Main Foyer and concourse
- Air conditioning and lighting settings specifically for work mode rather than event mode
- Introduced policy that air conditioning only operates during event days not bump in and bump out days
- Segregation and recycling of traditional waste products and capability to recycle primary batteries
- E-waste recycling
- Purchase of 50,000 biodegradable cornstarch pens for use throughout the Centre
- Policy to source local produce where possible with the Centre sourcing 80% of its fresh produce in Queensland and within 100 km radius where possible.

Water

- Installation of a 9,000 litre water storage tank used for cleaning and general purpose use
- Use of recycled water to clean the Centre's 54,000 square metre roof – water is captured during cleaning for further use
- Creation of an ice well to house left over ice and water from events at the Centre for reuse for cleaning
- Designed a paint wash system to separate paint solids from water
- Water used in events such as the Boat Show is captured and reused by Centre for cleaning purposes
- Installation of both E-water and RO water to the Centre's kitchens. Use of E-water has replaced 60% of the chemicals previously used on floors and hard surfaces
- The Centre's new 5 level expansion, BCEC on Grey Street will have a 5 star environmental rating.

BCEC is committed to setting benchmark standards for sustainable operations and meticulously records and measures data. Water and energy consumption are dependent on the Centre's event numbers. During the 2010/2011 Financial Year water consumption reduced by 6.4%, electricity consumption increased slightly by 1.5% and waste recycled increased by 6.4%

Caring for our community – communitywatch

The Centre is committed to working and engaging with the community on a number of levels and is an acknowledged industry leader in this regard.

The Centre's communitywatch program has six major components:

- **Staff Community Service Days** where staff are encouraged to undertake one day of community service each year during working hours or if out of working hours are offered a day in lieu or equivalent

- **Matching 10+** where BCEC management matches the fundraising efforts of BCEC teams of ten or more staff
- **The Giving Tree** – is the BCEC payroll giving project that allows staff to donate to charities via a pre-tax payroll deduction
- **Sharing Our Resources – Equipment and Food** – where the Centre donates unused pre-packaged food to Foodbank (more than 50,000 meals to date) and donates superseded or unused equipment to schools and other charitable organisations
- **Sharing Our Resources – Community Discount Program** – offering community and not for profit organisations discounted services for their events held at the Centre
- **BCEC Pathways to Work** – The Centre has a proud tradition of supporting employment and training opportunities

Signature community activities:

The Centre has embarked on a number of signature community initiatives with very positive outcomes including:

- Undertaking a series of basic nutrition and cooking classes in partnership with West End Community House, one of the Centre's long term community partners. The objective of the classes which are conducted by the Centre's Executive Chef, is to demonstrate useful living skills and improve quality of life for disadvantaged and marginalised residents from the local community.
- Hosting an annual traditional Christmas lunch for 400 people under the care of the Salvation Army's many programs with more than 80 staff volunteering their services
- Ongoing partnership with Foodbank and OzCare providing more than 50,000 pre-packaged meals and hundreds of litres of soup to help feed Brisbane's homeless community

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