



# Walk the Talk

Sustainability is at the core of OCC's operations and business practices. In 2004, we were the first convention center in the country to earn certification under the US Green Building Council's LEED® for Existing Buildings program. In September 2008, we recertified at the Silver level – continuing our commitment to improve the efficiency of our building and reduce our environmental impact.

## Energy Efficiency

Energy use at OCC is 25% less than the average for similar facilities in our region.

## Water Conservation

OCC has upgraded all restrooms with efficient fixtures, including dual flush valves and sensor activated faucets. Irrigation need is minimized through drought tolerant landscaping and weather sensing equipment.

## Waste Reduction

With an extensive recycling, donation and waste avoidance program, OCC continues to increase the amount of waste diverted from the landfill each year.

## Habitat Protection

The Rain Garden at OCC diverts stormwater run off through an innovative design that naturally filters water before it flows to the Willamette River. In addition, cleaning products at OCC are Green Seal certified, keeping toxic materials out of the water system to protect habitat and people.

## Sustainable Catering

OCC takes pride in choosing local food suppliers as often as possible for catering and concessions. In addition, sustainable service items such as bulk condiments, compostable cups/plates/flatware and reusable dishware are offered as a standard for most events. Additional items, such as water bubblers and vegetarian food options, are readily available.

## Responsible Purchasing

The sustainable purchasing policy helps guide departments in making purchasing choices. When possible, preference is given to products or services that are made with recycled content, locally manufactured, have low-toxicity, and are readily recyclable or reusable.

## Education and Outreach

OCC believes we can help the world be a greener place – one event at a time! More than 850,000 people visit our facility each year. We take the opportunity to share our sustainability efforts in multiple outlets, including the sustainability wall, exhibits and through our trained staff.

## Renewable Energy

Supporting renewable energy resources is important to the environment and our local economy. Through the Blue Sky program from Pacific Power, OCC purchases wind power equal to 40% of the building's annual electricity use - around 4,041,650 kilowatt hours per year. This amount is equivalent to the annual electricity use for about 360 average homes in the US.

## Carbon Offsetting

OCC offsets 100% of the greenhouse gas emissions produced by the facility's natural gas use. We voluntarily participate through the Smart Energy program with NW Natural Gas, supporting renewable biogas projects in Oregon.

Emissions from our annual natural gas use are equivalent to 1,350 metric tons of CO2. That's equal to taking 224 passenger vehicles off the road every year!

## Items Recycled at OCC:

- Food Waste (Composting)
- Mixed Paper, Plastic & Aluminum
- Glass
- Cardboard
- Wood
- Vinyl
- Film Plastic
- Styrofoam
- Metal
- Electronics
- Yard Debris

The annual diversion rate includes donations to local organizations. The OCC donates prepared food, classroom and office supplies, books, and any discarded event items accepted by one of our partner non-profit organizations.

