
The Conference Centre

**The Conference Centre
Environmental and Social Policy**

2009

Reducing waste but growing business



sustainable
BUSINESS NETWORK
MEMBER

get sustainable

2009 participant challenge

The Conference Centre Environmental and Social Report

The Conference Centre (TCC) is committed to being the leading environmentally sustainable 4 star venue. TCC is continually taking measures to reduce its carbon footprint. It aims to ensure that all of its events are successful as well as sustainable. Each event use considerable resources. TCC aims to provide delegates the experience they expect but not at the expense of the environment or local community.

“We must continually challenge ourselves to question the sustainability of everything that we do”. Robyn Henry – Conference Centre CEO.

TCC’s view of environmental sustainability is that it is a long term journey of continual improvement, identifying opportunities and implementing strategies. It is a journey where any change, no matter how small, makes a difference. It strives to educate its clients & suppliers along the way to look at their own environmental position. Through involvement with local sustainability networks, it has implemented activities and procedures that will reduce TCC’s immediate and ongoing impact on the environment.

This report outlines the measures that are already in place, those that are currently underway and those planned for the future to reduce TCC’s carbon footprint.

TCC regards the following 5 areas as being key focus areas;

- Purchasing;
- Recycling;
- Energy Efficiency;
- Social Responsibility;
- Waste Food Management.

Purchasing

A full evaluation of suppliers has already taken place and suppliers are now chosen carefully based on their own position on sustainability and the environment. TCC now seeks greener, more sustainable alternatives where possible. Where available it buys locally made and/or produced products and preference is given to products that are recyclable (for example delegate pads are made from recycled paper and pens are biodegradable).

Recycling

A comprehensive programme is in place to recycle paper/cardboard, glass and plastic, where recycling is not possible TCC tries to re-use, for instance plastic bottle tops are sent to a childcare facility for craft activities. Packaging from suppliers has also been reduced by new initiatives set in place such being suppliers are provided with re-useable storage containers in which to deliver their product in, so as to minimise the use of packing at source.

Simple measures such as providing drinking water in jugs with glasses rather than individual bottles is a easy and practical measure that has an immediate impact on waste. All condiments are served in reusable containers.

All conference rooms are provided with paper recycling bins as well as waste bins, this encourages delegates to consider waste.

Energy efficiency

TCC is looking to reduce power consumption through monitoring and setting achievable goals. Energy reduction programmes are driven internally by staff.

Regularly servicing by local suppliers of air conditioning and other high cost appliances lengthens their life span and improves efficiency.

Social responsibility

TCC sees sustainability as going further than mere waste reduction, its internal processes also need to be operating sustainably. To achieve this it positively

contributes to the health, skills, knowledge and motivation of all its employees. Some of the measures taken so far are:

The provision of health and fitness checks and free personal fitness sessions on a regular basis helps TCC staff to maintain the highest level of physical and mental wellbeing.

In April 2009, a team of four staff from the TCC, completed in “Oxfam Trailwalker”, a 100 kilometre non-stop walk, finishing in a time of 25 hours and 55 minutes and in doing so they raised over \$4,000 for Oxfam.

TCC values the sustainability contributions made by all of its employees. It makes sure that all staff are aware of sustainable developments and how to apply them at TCC.

A professional development fund is allocated to each employee every year, this helps to maintain appropriate levels of skills and competencies and allows each employee to realise their full potential. Thus ensuring that TCC offers continually high service.

Food waste management

Food waste is carefully sorted each day with waste suitable for composting being separated out (including coffee grains, coffee filters and napkins these make up a lot of the daily waste). Plastics & glass also segregated for recycling. To ensure standards are maintained and goals achieved, TCC undertakes a “waste audit” That measures and tracks the amount and type of waste. This helps to ensure that waste processes are regularly evaluated for breadth and depth of sustainability.