

SUSTAINABILITY

FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW | SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

Through a commitment to sustainability, Saint Paul RiverCentre and Xcel Energy Center strive to be a top green destination in the sports, entertainment and events industry. The organization continually seeks opportunities that reduce the environmental impact of its operations and fulfill its mission and values. The programming is comprehensive, spanning a range of topics that have received recognition from around the globe.

WASTE REDUCTION | Recycling 68 percent of 2.7 million pounds of waste generated each year

Since 2009, waste reduction has been a cornerstone initiative. The program allows for recycling of metal, glass, plastics, paper, cardboard, electronics, construction debris, organic material (compost), pallets, plastic wrap – and even vinyl. In the first 18 months of the program, the annual recycling rate went from 15 to over 50 percent. The facilities are aiming for a recycling rate of 70 percent by July 1, 2017.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY | Now the #3 purchaser of wind power in Minnesota

Initiatives aimed at conserving energy are focused on both operational efficiency and equipment upgrades. Currently, the facilities operate 26 percent more efficiently than average similar buildings nationally.

Officials also have sought to reduce the carbon footprint beyond what is possible through efficiency alone. The venues' renewable energy portfolio is a mix of on-site solar energy, off-site wind energy, and carbon offsets that have resulted in a footprint reduction of 83 percent.

One highlight of this program is the one-Megawatt solar thermal array on RiverCentre's roof; the largest in the upper Midwest. Wind power is purchased through a Windsource® partnership with Xcel Energy.

WATER REDUCTION | 78,000 gallons saved by installing aerators on restroom faucets for less than \$500

A total of 14 million of gallons of water is used each year at Saint Paul RiverCentre and Xcel Energy Center. While this amount is lower than the average (according to the 2014 NHL Sustainability Report), responsible water use is an operational priority. Conservation is the main reduction strategy (e.g. aerators installed in RiverCentre restrooms faucets) and water use is monitored on a daily basis to identify opportunities for improvement. Visitor traffic is the largest variable that affects water consumption. Current average water use is just under 7 gallons per visitor.

AIR QUALITY | Guests can breathe easier

The complex is a non-smoking facility, in accordance with Minnesota state law. Further, the venues prohibit smoking within 25 feet of all entryways. They also prohibit idling of vehicles on loading docks and within exhibition halls. Combustion-engine use is banned inside the facilities during events unless expressly needed as part of the event. Cleaning practices also play a major role in good air quality; a comprehensive green cleaning program guides the products, practices and equipment used in maintaining the facilities.

BUYING GREEN | Green Purchasing Playbook guides decision-making

As a large hospitality complex, tremendous quantities of material are purchased every year to operate the buildings, facilitate events, and meet administrative needs. Not only do these materials comprise an important element of the environmental footprint, they can be expensive. The goal is to minimize the use of toxic and environmentally harmful materials while pursuing opportunities to manage costs related to those purchases. To accomplish this, a comprehensive Green Purchasing Playbook was developed. The playbook is guided by industry standards that define “green” or environmentally preferable purchases and all major purchasers in the organization are trained to use it. Campus-wide, over 85 percent of office products, 75 percent of cleaning materials, and 35 percent of cleaning equipment meet these standards.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | Creating a Greater State of Hockey

The significant progress made in sustainable operations at Xcel Energy Center and Saint Paul RiverCentre provides a model for others to follow. The narrative is shared through a dedicated website, social media, facility tours and presentations. Clients are engaged in sustainability options at the outset of their events and the venue supports marketing efforts to help them share those efforts with attendees. All employees receive training on the company’s sustainability practices, and the staff is regularly updated on program changes and progress.

CERTIFICATIONS | Only complex in the world to be certified by LEED, Green Globes and APEX/ASTM

The most recent and significant accomplishment of the program is having three independent, third-party organizations certify that the complex has a high-performing and sustainable operation. Saint Paul RiverCentre and Xcel Energy Center are jointly now LEED Certified as an Existing Building for Operations and Maintenance; Green Globes Certified for Continuous Improvement of Existing Buildings; and APEX/ASTM Certified as a Venue for Sustainable Events.

Saint Paul RiverCentre is:

- One of less than 20 convention centers in the nation to be LEED Certified for Existing Buildings
- The first convention center in the world to be Green Globes certified
- Among first 10 in North America (11th worldwide) to be APEX/ASTM certified

Xcel Energy Center is:

- The only NHL arena in the United States (2nd in NHL, Montreal) to be LEED Certified for Existing Buildings
- First arena in the world to receive Green Globes and APEX/ASTM certifications
- 4th in the world to Achieve Level 2 or higher through APEX/ASTM

