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SAINT PAUL RIVERCENTRE ANNOUNCES GOAL TO BECOME A REGIONAL LEADER IN SUSTAINABILITY

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – In conjunction with Earth Day, Saint Paul RiverCentre officials announced the convention center has launched a long-term, multifaceted sustainability initiative. The goal is to grow into the sustainability leader among convention centers in the region.

“Our clients and customers expect us to operate in a way that preserves and protects the environment. This sustainability initiative is a natural extension of the service that has made RiverCentre and Saint Paul a choice venue for meetings and conventions,” said Karolyn Kirchgesler, President and CEO of the Saint Paul Convention and Visitors Authority.

Green practices aren’t new to Saint Paul RiverCentre. The 10-year-old meeting and events facility has been engaged in recycling and conservation efforts for some time, but as Vice President and General Manager Jim Ibister stated, officials wanted to explore ways to do more to benefit the environment:

“Caring for our environment is not just good business; it’s good for all of us. We are passionate about creating the best events imaginable for our clients and guests, and that includes providing a setting that is a model for sustainable practices. Furthermore, these initiatives will benefit our entire community.”

In partnership with Progressive Associates, Inc., of Saint Paul, Minn., officials will spend the next two months assessing every aspect of the center, from recycling efforts and transportation alternatives to energy and water usage. From those findings, a plan will be generated with actionable steps to improve energy management, reduce waste and set Saint Paul RiverCentre on a lasting course to environmental sustainability.

Saint Paul RiverCentre and neighboring facilities Xcel Energy Center and The Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium, which are all managed by Saint Paul Arena Company, currently recycle glass, plastic, aluminum, paper, cardboard, fluorescent bulbs, pallets, metal and cooking oil used in the facilities. Additionally, conversion to green cleaning products began last year and lighting is being incrementally switched over to high-efficiency alternatives. All facilities are heated and cooled only when occupied, using renewable energy provided by District Energy.

“This is an exciting time for Saint Paul RiverCentre and the City of Saint Paul,” said Patrick Reeves, managing director for Progressive Associates. “We are honored to be helping Saint Paul RiverCentre achieve this important goal. We are impressed with their leadership and desire to integrate these practices into the fabric of their culture. We believe that this is the right thing to do for their business, the community of Saint Paul and the environment. We look forward to working closely with management in the crafting of a comprehensive five-year plan to not only achieve, but maintain this goal.”

[About Saint Paul Convention & Visitors Authority](#)

The mission of the Saint Paul Convention & Visitors Authority (CVA) is to generate economic growth for Saint Paul by effectively marketing the Saint Paul RiverCentre campus, the City of Saint Paul and the region as a preferred convention and tourism destination.

[About Saint Paul RiverCentre](#)

Saint Paul RiverCentre is the city’s premier convention center that overlooks the bluffs of the Mississippi River. Featuring more than 250,000 square feet of versatile event space and flexible room configurations that include the Grand Ballroom and The Legendary Roy Wilkins Auditorium, Saint Paul RiverCentre is the preferred choice for hundreds of events including star-studded galas, trade shows and conventions each year.