

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 58.3 percent of 1.54 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 December 31, 2022.

ENERGY | Offsetting 100% of Minnesota Wild team air travel

Initiatives aimed at conserving energy are focused on both operational efficiency and equipment upgrades. Almost 12,000 lights have been upgraded to more efficient technology since 2010.

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 and off-site wind energy, that has resulted in a footprint reduction of over 72%.

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 10.2 million of gallons of water is used each year at Saint Paul RiverCentre and Xcel Energy Center, or about 7 gallons/visitor. Conservation is our main reduction strategy (e.g. aerators installed in RiverCentre restrooms faucets) and water use is monitored to identify opportunities for improvement. Visitor traffic is the largest variable that affects water consumption.

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. The facilities regularly monitor air quality to ensure a healthy indoor environment for guests and staff.

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 55 percent of office products, 76 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 Saint Paul RiverCentre and Xcel Energy Center provides a model for others to follow. The narrative is shared through a dedicated website, social media, facility tours and presentations to encourage similar sustainable practices by our clients, other businesses and our community.

The sustainability efforts extend beyond the campus venues. Staff participates annually in the Minnesota DNR’s Adopt-A-River program and has removed nearly 10,000 pounds of debris from the Mississippi River banks. Additionally, they have partnered with local neighbors to develop a sustainability education destination called the *Saint Paul EcoDistrict*. This EcoDistrict is the only place in the United States where visitors can explore a multitude of sustainable projects that support renewable energy, energy conservation, and waste reduction in a four block walking tour.

CERTIFICATIONS | Proud to be the first complex in the world to be awarded the following certifications

Perhaps the most 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 LEED Gold Certified for Building Operations and Maintenance; Green Globes Certified for Continuous Improvement of Existing Buildings; and Event Industry Council (EIC)’s Sustainable Event Standards (SES) – Gold Certified.

LEED Gold Certified

- The best-known environmental certification for buildings.
- Ensures the complex is operating thoughtfully and efficiently across a range of metrics from energy usage, carbon intensity, waste diversion, and water use, to indoor air quality, building occupant satisfaction and employee commuting practices.

Green Globes

- A more flexible certification standard that helps buildings create a road map to sustainability tailored to their specific operations and needs.
- Measures building performance across a wider array of topics under the headings of energy, water, materials, indoor air quality, building site features and management practices.

EIC/SES Gold Certified

- Sustainability certification specifically tailored to events industry issues and needs.
- Includes the key metrics of environmentally sustainable operations, but also incorporates social responsibility issues like accessibility, diversity & equity, and social impact.

