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 60.5 percent of 2.87 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, 2018.

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 28 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 88.7 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 14.9 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 6.8 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 98 percent of office products, 73 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 over 3,000 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 | Only complex in the world to be certified by LEED, Green Globes and EIC/SES Gold

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 Platinum Certified as an Existing Building for Operations and Maintenance; Green Globes Certified for Continuous Improvement of Existing Buildings; and Event Industry Council (EIC)'s Sustainable Event Standards (SES) – Gold Certified.

Saint Paul RiverCentre is:

- One of the few convention centers in the nation to be LEED Platinum certified for existing buildings
- The first convention center in the world to be Green Globes certified
- The 5th convention center certified GOLD to the new EIC/SES standard, and one of only 15 that are currently certified to SES (formerly APEX/ASTM)

Xcel Energy Center is:

- The only NHL arena in the United States (2nd in NHL, Montreal) to be LEED Platinum Certified for Existing Buildings
- First arena in the world to receive Green Globes and EIC/SES certifications
- Xcel Energy Center is the first NHL arena to receive EIC/SES Gold certification