

# 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 | 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

