

# THREE RIVERS CONVENTION CENTER GREEN EFFORTS

## PAYING EXTRA ATTENTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The convention center is doing many things that other centers have taken on in the last few years, including recycling and buying local. Customers now expect that we are paying attention to the environment. This process does not necessarily come cheap, there are costs involved, which we have to examine. Almost everything that is in conjunction with “green” is more costly. We really are looking at every piece to justify what we are doing. That justification may not be in the short-term, but in looking at the long-term impact on the environment and ultimately on our business. No matter what the cost, however, attention to the environment is now an expected part of doing business, and it will only increase.

### **USE OF RECYCLED MATERIALS AND LOCAL RESOURCES:**

The commitment to recycling started during construction. 75% of the overall non-hazardous construction debris was either salvaged or recycled. In return, more than 50% of the products used in the construction of the center were regional materials coming from within a 500-mile radius of the project, reducing fuel required and emissions released during transportation.

### **GREEN HOUSEKEEPING PROGRAM:**

The Three Rivers Convention Center established a “green” cleaning policy to reduce exposure to potentially hazardous chemical contaminants that adversely impact air quality or impede building occupants’ well-being. Cleaning products that meet Green Seal standard GS-37 and low VOC compounds are used throughout the campus. All products meet EPA standards with high post-consumer recycled content. Disposable cleaning cloths have been replaced with reusable cloths to reduce paper use and waste.

### **RECYCLING PROGRAM:**

The Three Rivers Convention Center is committed to recycling – both in public and service areas. Recycling containers are

### **ENERGY & WATER EFFICIENCY:**

The Three Rivers Convention Center has established a relationship with the Benton PUD to provide ongoing energy audits and recommendations. Installation of energy saving HVAC systems, programmable temperature control and lighting devices has reduced energy consumption by 40%, saving over \$100,000 annually. Low-flow and waterless fixtures along with a concerted effort by staff completes the plan to reduce overall water use.

### **INDOOR AIR QUALITY:**

Using low-fume emitting paints, carpets, adhesives and composite woods throughout the Center provides a healthy environment for our employees and guests. The air handling systems were sealed and filtered during installation with a full building flush of fresh air after construction was complete. A permanent monitoring system for carbon dioxide concentrations insures the safety and comfort of our users.

### **PURCHASING:**

An emphasis has been made on purchasing products and materials that are recyclable, made of recycled content and help reduce waste. When equipment is replaced, Energy Star rated products are purchased and local

located throughout the facility for paper, plastic and aluminum. Cardboard, newspapers, pallets and other back-of-house materials are bundled and recycled. Left over materials from events are collected and then re-used and/or recycled.

#### **ENERGY MANAGEMENT:**

The abundance of natural light decreases the need for lighting and thus, reduces electrical needs. Temperature and lighting are kept at minimal levels on non-event days and motion sensors control lighting in intermittently used spaces.

**DINING EXPERIENCE: VENUWORKS**, the exclusive food and beverage provider, is committed to being “green”. China and silver are set with reusable cloth table linens. Water is served on request and by the pitcher. Condiments are served bulk style and the local fare is purchased from nearby farms and businesses whenever available. Excess food and beverage left over from events is donated to local shelters and soup kitchens.

#### **OFFICE PROCEDURES:**

Every effort is made to reduce paper consumption by doing business via email or phone. When printing is necessary printing on both sides of the paper is encouraged. Multi-purpose office equipment (all-in-one fax, printer, scanner, copier) has been purchased that will use less energy and space. A paper recycling container is located in each building .

Marketing and menus are located on the Three Rivers Convention Center website and available for download eliminating the cost and paper use of printed materials. The Planner’s Packet is also available on CD by request.

On-site LCD monitors scattered throughout the campus are used for event information, reducing the need for printed signs.

suppliers are used whenever possible. Products are purchased packaged in bulk with recycled materials cutting down on waste and disposal. Sharing equipment amongst the three venues (the Three Rivers Convention Center, the Toyota Center and the Toyota Arena) eliminates multiple purchases and greater waste.

#### **CLEAN AIR AND WATER:**

The indoor air quality is monitored for carbon dioxide concentrations to insure safety and comfort for our guests. The Washington State Clean Air Act prohibits smoking within twenty-five feet of any entrance to the Convention Center. Attendees are encouraged to use water bottles to drink local

#### **ENCOURAGING GREEN MEETINGS:**

All events at the Three Rivers Convention Center will benefit from the overall green initiatives listed above. Knowledgeable staff is available to consult with meeting planners wanting to conduct their meetings in a green manner.

#### **CITY LOCATION:**

Located in the heart of the Kennewick Vista entertainment district, the Three Rivers Convention Center encourages low-impact transportation which reduces energy and emissions. The Center provides easy access to mass transportation, bike trails and pedestrian walkways. Lodging, shopping, dining and entertainment are within walking distance.. Easy access to bus lines, make the Tri cities easy to get around in.

