



The
Baltimore
Convention Center

2024 Social Responsibility & Sustainability Recap



Environmental Policy

The Baltimore Convention Center fosters sustainability by expanding an innovative environmental management system, enhancing operations, aligning with city efforts, and educating stakeholders on reducing our carbon footprint. The cornerstones of our environmental policy are: waste reduction and diversion, energy conservation, water quality and consumption, air quality, responsible procurement processes, future education, and involvement with the community.

1. Waste Management: Reduction and Diversion

The Baltimore Convention Center implements a single stream recycling program throughout the building and conducts annual waste audits to ensure we continue to meet or exceed our target waste diversion rate. In addition to fully commingled recycling, the Center employs separate programs to dispose of pallets, corrugated cardboard, scrap metal, and donatable and compostable food waste. Among these programs is our partnership with the Maryland Food Bank and Carriage House Farms to divert food to those in need, or to local farmers for livestock prior to composting or discarding.

2. Energy Conservation

The Center entered into a conservation agreement with local provider, Constellation Energy that provided upgrades to the facility's lighting, heating, and water systems which will produce a guaranteed 20% reduction in energy usage.

3. Environmental Design

To reduce water consumption, the Baltimore Convention Center is equipped with a highly efficient irrigation system consisting of timed sprinklers, drip irrigation and sensors, and water-saving devices for toilets, urinals, and faucets in all restrooms. The Center's Outdoor Terrace is equipped with a drought resistant vegetative roofing pavilion and rainwater recapturing system.

4. Air Quality

The facility continuously monitors both carbon dioxide (CO2) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) through our energy management system to ensure air quality performance throughout the facility. MERV-16 Air filters are deployed throughout the entire facility to ensure airborne pathogens and particulates are kept to an absolute minimum. The Baltimore Convention Center is a smoke-free facility.

5. Responsible Procurement Processes

The Convention Center, along with our exclusive food and beverage provider, Levy, prioritizes sustainable preferential purchasing systems and supports buying locally whenever possible. In addition, effort is made to ensure that the healthiest and least harmful cleaning products and practices are in place throughout the facility and that recycled, recyclable, and biodegradable products are utilized in facility operations.

6. Continuing Education

The Center is currently developing Green Action Teams (groups formed by employee representatives from all departments and partners) who will ensure each department is doing what it takes to contribute to and grow the Center's sustainability programs.

7. Involvement with The Community

The Convention Center plays a leadership role working in tandem with the City of Baltimore, industry partners, and clientele to ensure that green meeting practices are met. We further our green initiatives through volunteerism, food donations, reuse of composting materials, and involvement in other programs that reinforce our stewardship.

Executive Director, Mac Campbell CVP



Meet the Green Team

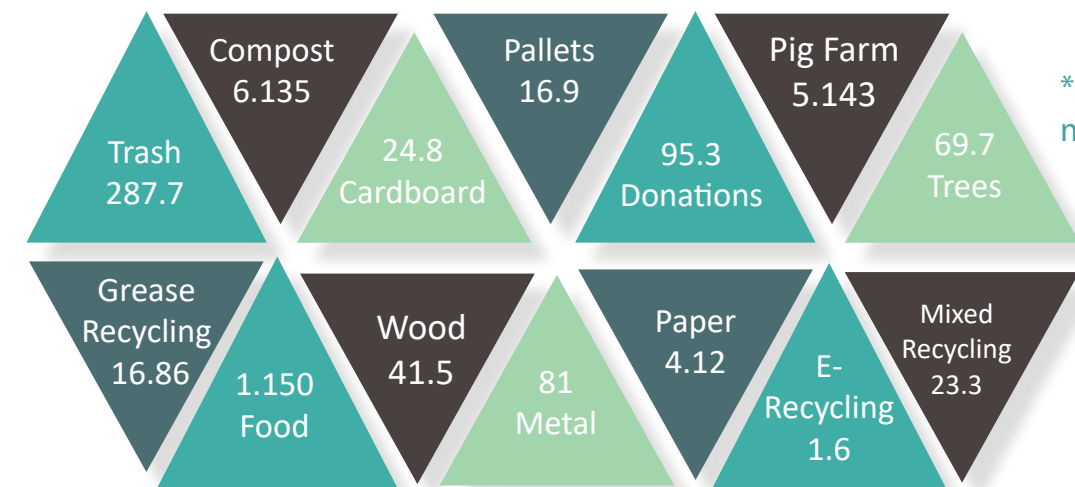
Meet the 2024 Baltimore Convention Centers Green Team Council, bringing together dedicated employees from every department to advance sustainability initiatives and Corporate Social Responsibility efforts. Throughout the year, the council met regularly to discuss the facility's sustainable features, existing environmental and community programs, and educational opportunities. Their efforts also aimed to meet the criteria for Events Industry Council Sustainable Event Standards certification.



The BCC's Green Team

A Look Into 2024

BCC achieves 51.31% diversion in 2024 - Surpassing 35% goal. Our client events generated 590.81 tons of waste diverting 303.15 tons from landfill.



*All units are measured in tons.

This year the BCC's Diversion by Donation program placed 95.27 tons of furniture, materials, plants, and supplies directly into the hands of Baltimore City non-profit organizations or reuse programs.

52,413 Waterbottles Saved From Landfill



Our Progress

- Since launching our sustainability efforts in 2012, the Baltimore Convention Center has increased the facility's diversion rate from 11.2% to 51.31%.
- Since 2021, the BCC prevented over 319,928 water bottles from entering landfill.
- 60% of our culinary ingredients are locally sourced supporting over 18 small businesses.
- Our Alveole Bee Program has grown and now holds a colony of over 40,000 Honeybees and two bee homes to support independent pollinators such as Carpenter bees, Bumble bees, and Leafcutter bees.
- In 2024 we relocated our bees to their very own Bee Terrace. You can now visit our hive up close and personal through the window of Howard Street Lobby.

Did you know you can follow our bees journey? Scan the QR code to view our Hive Page!



The BCC Earns Sustainable Event Certification

This year, the Baltimore Convention Center achieved Silver-level certification under the Events Industry Council (EIC) Sustainable Event Standards. Led by our Director of Operations, Tyler DeBella, the venue's Green Team Council played a key role in meeting the certification requirements. Their efforts included training employees on sustainability and social impact, hosting a Sustainable Event Professional Certification program, developing communication materials ensuring responsible and sustainable purchasing, and more.

This globally recognized certification highlights our ongoing commitment to sustainability through energy efficiency, waste reduction, and environmentally responsible design. As we continue to set the standard for sustainable event venues, the BCC remains dedicated to implementing innovative practices that drive positive environmental change, with plans to elevate our certification level in 2025.



Saving Energy with SkySpark

As part of our ongoing commitment to reducing energy consumption and enhancing environmental sustainability, the Baltimore Convention Center is continuously exploring innovative ways to uphold our venue's accountability. In 2024, we introduced a new system in collaboration with Constellation Energy called SkySpark. Powered by ABI Advantage, LLC, SkySpark is a comprehensive building energy monitoring system designed to optimize efficiency and support our sustainability goals.



Building Energy Utilization

- Tracking of energy consumption across multiple levels from whole building down to individual rooms. Some key areas in which we will be able to monitor our consumption are all meeting rooms, exhibit halls, air handling units, and our kitchen.
- Monitoring of power quality from our energy provider (BGE).
- Runtime data collection for HVAC equipment.
- Tracking runtime and find inefficiencies in practice that we can correct.

Water Meter Reporting

- Two ultra-sonic water meters will be tracking all building domestic water utilization.

Implementing this system requires extensive hands-on work to install sensors for accurate data collection. The cloud-based platform will enable us to analyze power usage in real time, allowing us to provide clients with detailed insights into the energy and water consumption of their events. SkySpark sensors are currently being installed throughout the facility, and in 2025, we will officially begin reporting our data findings.



Electrical Power Meter and Reporting Device

Meetings Make Big Impact

53 Families Foundation and Goodwill's 67th Thanksgiving Dinners

The Baltimore Convention Center played a vital role in fostering community spirit during the Thanksgiving season by hosting two impactful events—the 53 Families Foundation Thanksgiving Event and Goodwill's 67th Thanksgiving Dinner—welcoming over 8,000 guests.

These annual traditions not only provide warm, catered Thanksgiving meals but also create a space for attendees to engage in meaningful activities and access valuable resources. What makes these events even more special is the Center's commitment to giving back. By providing complimentary rental space, we help our community partners save significant costs, ensuring that more resources go directly to those in need.

In collaboration with Levy, the Center further extends our impact through sustainable food donations. After the events:

- 53 Families Foundation (Salvation Army) Donation: 261 pounds of leftover turkey, yams, greens, mashed potatoes, and gravy were loaded onto a Salvation Army food vehicle at the Center's loading docks for redistribution.
- Goodwill Industries Donation: 543 pounds of turkey, pork, mashed potatoes, yams, cranberry sauce, and gravy—along with disposable items such as cups, aluminum pans, and sanitizer supplies—were collected by Rescue Mission for community distribution.

Through these efforts, the BCC continues to reinforce our role as a hub for community support and sustainability during the holiday season.



Young volunteers serving at Goodwill's Thanksgiving Dinner



Governor Wes Moore volunteering at 53 Families Foundation's Thanksgiving Dinner

ReFed

The Baltimore Convention Center continues to lead the way in sustainability, proudly hosting the ReFED Food Waste Solutions Summit. In addition to incorporating specific sustainability initiatives into their event, the BCC was invited to host a sustainability tour as part of the official event program. With over 30 engaged attendees, the tour sparked such interest that it ran more than twice its scheduled time!



ReFed space setup



BCC sustainability tour

Mid Atlantic Nursery Tradeshow

The Baltimore Convention Center proudly hosted the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Tradeshow (MANTS) from January 7–13, 2024, marking its 54th year in Baltimore. The event welcomed over 11,000 attendees and showcased more than 900 booths, continuing our legacy of driving economic impact and supporting local businesses, non-profits, and environmental initiatives.

As part of the Center's ongoing sustainability efforts, our team worked closely with exhibitors to divert 72.85% of event waste, preventing 93.96 tons of materials from ending up in landfills.



Plants and trees left from MANTS prepared for donation

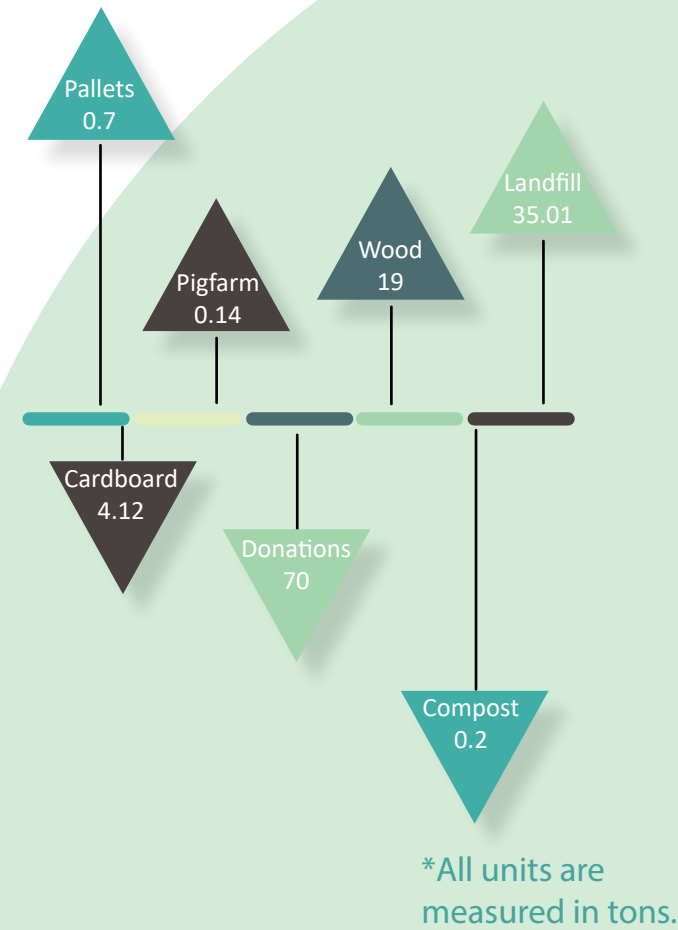
Some Highlights of These Efforts Include:

- Furniture & Supplies Donation: 69.91 tons of materials were donated to Baltimore Tree Trust, Baltimore ToolBank, Midtown Partnership, and Second Chance to support local revitalization projects.
- Recycling & Repurposing: 18.9 tons of wood, 4.1 tons of cardboard, and 0.7 tons of pallets were diverted for reuse and recycling.

Food Waste Reduction:

- Carriage House Farms (local pig farm) received 0.14 tons of food scraps.
- Waste Neutral Composting diverted 0.18 tons of organic waste.

Through these initiatives, MANTS 2024 reinforced its commitment to sustainability, making a lasting impact on Baltimore’s businesses, communities, and environment. The Baltimore Convention Center remains dedicated to working with event organizers to minimize waste and maximize community benefit.



Meet The I.D.E.A. Council

The Baltimore Convention Center is happy to share an Equity Statement and Objectives of the I.D.E.A. Council (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility). This Council, created on February 23, 2023, is represented by all organizational departments and leadership levels, and strives to include as many employees and voices as possible. The Council and the programs and ideas that are being created are a priority of the BCC. We are also a member of Visit Baltimore’s Warm Welcome Pledge and stand alongside the entire hospitality industry in Baltimore to foster an inclusive community where visitors of all backgrounds, races, genders, and abilities know and feel that they’re welcome when they come to Charm City.



Kulture City and Warm Welcome decals at our entrances highlight our commitment to inclusivity

Ensuring Accessibility: BCC’s Commitment to ADA Compliance

In 2024, the Baltimore Convention Center appointed Assistant Director of Operations, Phil Carpenter as the organization’s ADA Coordinator. In this role, Phil ensures the venue remains fully ADA-compliant for both visitors and employees. He actively enhances our understanding of ADA standards while staying up to date with best practices and programs. Additionally, Phil collaborates with a network of coordinators across Baltimore City and participates in quarterly educational briefings and specialized ADA training sessions.

Currently, Phil is completing 40 credit hours through ADA trainings and coalitions to allow him to become Professional ADA Coordinator Certified.



Assistant Director of Operations and ADA Coordinator, Phil Carpenter

Inclusivity For All

As our commitment to sustainability grows, we are in a position to re-evaluate regularly what sustainability means to the BCC and in our industry. Sustainability focuses on preserving future generations and quality of life. This includes environmental components, economic components, and social responsibility.



Members of the I.D.E.A. Council attending the 2024 Civil Rights Breakfast

KultureCity Certified



This year, the BCC partnered with KultureCity to obtain its Sensory Inclusive Certification. As part of this certification, over 100 BCC staff members received specialized training to better support individuals who may experience sensory overload or have non physical accessibility needs. Additionally, we now offer sensory bags equipped with noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools, verbal cue cards, and weighted lap pads to assist guests in managing their sensory experience. Guests may request to borrow a sensory bag at any lobby attendant stand. This achievement aligns with our ongoing efforts to foster inclusivity and ensure that every visitor feels welcomed and supported at the BCC.

A Look Ahead

In 2025, the BCC's ADA Coordinator is looking to:

- Hosting Deaf and Hard of Hearing Competency Engagement Trainings.
- Engage in client site visits to provide insight on our accommodations and programs in place.

You can reach out to the BCC with your accessibility related questions at accessibility@bccenter.org

Our Partners



Leading the fight against substance abuse, poverty, and homelessness in Greater Baltimore. Whether it's meeting someone's immediate needs for food and shelter or giving them ongoing care to rebuild their lives, we work to restore hearts and hope.

1029 E. Baltimore St, Baltimore, MD 21202
www.helpingupmission.org



The Midtown Community Benefits District provides services to more than 4,000 properties across the 144 blocks of Bolton Hill, Charles North, Madison Park, and Mount Vernon. Our agile team strives to meet a wide range of needs under the main pillars of Clean, Green, Safe, Advocate, working closely with constituents to monitor areas of concern and plan accordingly when locations require more significant service.

1505 Eutaw Place, Suite 203, Baltimore, MD 21217
www.midtownbaltimore.org



Baltimore Tree Trust has been guided by the singular vision that all Baltimore neighbors deserve access to the clean air and cool green spaces that trees can provide. Baltimore Tree Trust has transitioned from neighborhood, volunteer based operations into Baltimore's premier city-wide tree planting organization. With the support of the Baltimore City Forestry Division, the Tree Trust began to plant larger ball-and-burlap trees on an industrial scale aimed at connecting the city's tree canopy across neighborhoods, all while engaging and educating residents on the importance of our urban forestry initiatives.

330 W 24th St, Baltimore, MD 21211
www.baltimoretreetrust.org



Provides people, materials and the environment with a second chance. We deconstruct buildings and homes, salvage usable materials, and make those and other donated items available to the public for reuse at our more than 200,000 square foot retail center. With the revenue generated, we provide job training and workforce development for those with various employment obstacles in the Baltimore region.

1700 Ridgely St, Baltimore, MD 21230
www.secondchanceinc.org

BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) is one of the oldest and most historic public school systems in the United States. Established in 1829, City Schools boasts the nation's oldest all-girls public high school (Western High School) and the third oldest public high school overall (Baltimore City College).

200 E. North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21202
www.baltimorecityschools.org



Careit is a free online donation matching marketplace that disrupts the current system of food insecurity and malnutrition. It uses technology to connect food produces with local hunger-relief agencies, allowing food to be responsibly donated and providing vulnerable individuals and families access to essential resources.

110 Somerville Ave, Suite 154, Chattanooga, TN 37405
www.careit.com



The Baltimore Community ToolBank serves community-based organizations by providing tools, equipment & expertise to empower their most ambitious goals. Since opening in 2012, the ToolBank has been serving nonprofits and community-based organizations in the Baltimore area. These groups are often overcommitted and underfunded. We disrupt the cycle of groups overpaying for resources, which allows them to focus on their missions. By lending tools at a highly subsidized rate, we increase accessibility to resources.



Now more than ever, Maryland Food Bank has proven that the food assistance safety net we've built over the last 45 years can withstand any crisis. Our expertise combined with a statewide network of community partners makes it possible to meet the immediate needs of food-insecure Marylanders while simultaneously working to create pathways out of hunger. We are dedicated to feeding people, strengthening communities, and ending hunger for more Marylanders.

2200 Halethorpe Farms Rd, Baltimore, MD 21227
www.mdfoodbank.org

Additional Nonprofit Partners:

Determined To Make A Change
Baltimore Hunger Project
South Baltimore Station
Baltimore Outreach

Sustainability and Social Impact Plan

The Baltimore Convention Center is taking strides towards embracing sustainability within the hospitality industry. For the future of our organization, we're implementing our Sustainability and Social Impact Plan. Building upon the foundation laid in the previous year, these initiatives aim to further minimize our environmental impact.

Organization Management

We seek to align ourselves with Baltimore City's aim to be an employer of choice through attracting, developing and maintaining a diverse and high-performing team. We strive to aid in the promotion of Baltimore City's Violence Prevention Plan that focuses on three pillars, (1) Public Health Approach, (2) Community Engagement and Inter-Agency Collaboration, and (3) Evaluation and Accountability to educate and prevent against abuses of labor, violence, and human trafficking.

Marketing, Communication and Engagement

We strive to publically share our message and impact through constant updates to our website and social media platforms. We prioritize our core values of Empathy, Pride, Growth, Inclusion, and Service in training and employee focused functions and efforts. We work to make sustainability a priority in our communication and accessible to all events.

Climate Change

As an organization, the Baltimore Convention Center wants to reduce the cost and energy use associated with utility and HVAC in the building on non-event days. The Baltimore Convention Center will implement a strategy of tracking individual utility electric and HVAC usage to evaluate and monitor baseline greenhouse gas emissions to generate year over year goal setting in order to reduce those values. This will be completed through increased use of technology to identify and track utilities.

Water Management

The Baltimore Convention Center's goal is to reduce the use of potable water for non-potable sources and to limit the amount of waste as it pertains to water usage. As an organization, we will develop a plan and process to track domestic water usage and use monthly and event-based reporting to establish baseline use as well as identify anomalies in our potable water consumption.

Supply Chain Management

We are committed to the practice of responsible purchasing that intentionally provides opportunities to Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and women owned businesses (MWBE), and minimizes our carbon footprint with reduced shipping by purchasing locally, and utilizing green seal products post consumer grade products.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

We will host a "Let's Chat Series" to invite diverse groups of customers to share their purpose, background, culture etc., with our team members prior to their event creating understanding and a welcoming environment for their attendees, while also providing cultural education and exposure to our team members.

Accessibility

We will maintain an Accessibility Coordinator to lead our accessibility initiatives and improve our accessibility communication to clients and attendees.

Social Impact

We will provide opportunities for community engagement and advancement by our Convention Center team which will allow us to facilitate meaningful client conversations on local impact. We will maintain prioritizing wellness education for mental and physical health.