



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**KNOXVILLE CONVENTION CENTER IS SPRING GREENING**

The Knoxville Convention Center (KCC) is adding spring greening to the old spring cleaning at the showcase Knoxville facility. The KCC is making numerous environmentally friendly changes to its facilities and is working toward receiving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

As an existing building, the convention center is using the LEED rating system designed to help building owners and operators measure operations, improvements and maintenance on a consistent scale. The goal of the system is to maximize operational efficiency while minimizing environmental impacts.

"We pride ourselves on being a world-class facility, and now we have the opportunity to make improvements that benefit our customers, our community and our environment," said General Manager Mary Bogert. "In addition, many of these green improvements reduce our costs, allowing us to more efficiently generate economic impact for the city of Knoxville."

The convention center has already made significant changes that will save the facility approximately \$136,500 annually, and several more green plans are in the works.

**Energy efficiency**

The center redesigned their domestic hot water supply to allow for turning off the "high pressure" boiler when it is not needed. The previous system required the boiler to run 365 days a year. The project paid for itself in less than six months, generating an estimated yearly savings of \$120,000.

By installing window tint on the west side of the building and on the skylights, the amount of ultraviolet rays

entering the building was reduced, lowering the temperature of the concourse. This reduces cooling costs by an estimated \$9,000 each year.

### **Restrooms**

In the facility's restrooms, the convention center installed automated paper towel dispensers, which reduce waste and save up to \$2,000 annually; installed automated foam soap dispensers, which reduce waste, save product and save up to \$500 annually; installed waterless urinals, which save up to \$5,000 annually in wastewater expenses; and changed all toilet paper and paper towel products to recycled paper.

### **Recycling**

The convention center expanded their existing paper and cardboard recycling program to include aluminum and steel cans, glass, plastic and mixed paper.

### **Landscaping**

Outdoor landscaping was improved by planting more perennials, and more live plants were added to the interior of the facility.

### **Further green plans**

In addition to these improvements, the convention center is making many more green improvement plans, including installation of a "Plumb-it" system to the kitchen drains, which helps keep drain lines clean and reduce the amount of grease caught in the grease trap; working with the "Green Team" from Kelsan Inc., a sanitary supplies distributor, to supply the center with green chemicals and train the center's staff on how to clean green; and changing the current food and beverage disposal to an alternative that utilizes more biodegradable products.

The center has begun retrofitting lighting to use more energy efficient bulbs, changing the elevator lighting to compact fluorescent bulbs. The convention center is currently working with a consultant to supplement these lighting improvements and possibly install some LED lighting.

### **The Green Team**

With all of these green improvements, the convention center also realizes that a lot of change must occur at the human level to reduce waste and inefficiency. The center has launched a Green Team to help promote green policies and continue to educate and encourage employees.

The Knoxville Convention Center is located in downtown Knoxville adjacent to the Sunsphere. It boasts an 119,922-square-foot exhibit hall, a 27,300-square-foot divisible ballroom and 18 meeting rooms. For more information, visit

<http://www.knoxvilleconventioncenter.com>.

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