



## Green Checklist – The Banff Centre

Many organizations in North America have made recommendations regarding best “green” practices for meeting, conference, and event organizers, venues, and suppliers. Among others, the Green Meeting Industry Council, the Oceans Blue Foundation, the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication, and Environment Canada have produced a variety of reports, white papers, and guides that can help to inspire all of us to take the necessary steps to green our meetings industry – together.

The Banff Centre is proud of its commitment to the environment. Located within a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Banff National Park), we place great value on our unique and spectacular mountain environment. The Centre is committed to environmental leadership and performance in all its operations.

Since 2001, the Centre has designated the vice-president, Hospitality & Conferences, as environmental officer. This function is guided by an Environmental Management System approved by the Centre’s Board of Governors. A portion of the Centre’s annual budget is allocated for specific environmental projects. An Environment Committee includes members from all operations areas at the Centre, acting as a coordinating body for all environmental activities and initiatives.

As a meeting planner, you benefit from the many ways in which The Banff Centre can help you minimize your impact on the environment. Here is a checklist of our green practices. For more details, please visit [Respecting our Environment](#). As we adopt new practices or enhance current practices, they will be added to this list.

### Waste Management

Waste audits are regularly performed and have assisted in a reduction of waste at the Centre.

- The Food & Beverage department purchases food products in bulk
- 100% recycled napkins and wooden stir sticks are used
- Bottled water is no longer used by Mountain Culture and Leadership Development for their participants, or events. Nalgene water bottles are provided, and tap water is supplied
- Mountain Culture offers PVC-free registration kits to participants
- All paper used at the Centre is 100% post-consumer recycled
- Staff is encouraged to reduce paper use by electronic filing and proofing, and printing pages double-sided.
- The Banff Centre is working with the Town of Banff on a new composting program, to be integrated into the town’s water treatment system.
- Waste audits are performed cyclically, to establish benchmarks and identify possible improvements in waste reduction practices.

### Recycling

To reduce the amount of materials entering the waste stream, the Centre has developed a number of recycling initiatives.

- Environmental impacts are considered in the choice of products purchased
- Convenient on-site collection of paper, magazines, newspaper, cardboard, glass, and metal, for staff and guests
- Staff are responsible for sorting and separating recycled items
- Worn out linens are used as rags by Housekeeping, or the Centre’s paint and print shops

- Bottles from all soaps, lotions, or bath products are sent back to the supplier for recycling
- Packaging from Food & Beverage items is recycled
- Gravel and sand for winter ice control is recycled
- Recycled asphalt is used for temporary paths; recycled tires have been used on rooftop walkways
- Wooden deer, made from trees felled during a wild fire fuel reduction program, were created as trail closure signage
- Fixtures and furnishings from renovation projects are donated to Habitat for Humanity
- Cooking grease from the kitchen is saved and picked-up for recycling

## **Conservation**

Changes have been made, and systems developed, to reduce the Centre's use of electricity, water, and fuel.

- 95% of the Centre has been retrofitted to high-efficiency lighting
- More than 100 motion/occupancy sensors have been installed in public and staff washrooms
- Exterior exit lights and Christmas lights use energy-saving LED bulbs
- A Storm Water Management Plan has been implemented. A bioswale to catch and retain storm water and filter pollutants has been built.
- The Centre is minimizing non-native plants on the grounds, to reduce watering requirements
- More than 225 ultra low flush toilets have been installed in guest bedrooms. As remaining old models fail, they are replaced with low flush models.
- Touch-less water-saving washroom faucets, low flow showerheads, and sink aerators have been installed in guest bedrooms
- In the film and print-making artist studios, modifications have been made to reduce the use of water and hazardous chemicals
- Two waterless urinals have been installed in Physical Facilities
- High efficiency front load washers are used in guest and staff accommodation
- Guests are encouraged to re-use bed linens and towels
- Security staff use a hybrid vehicle for property patrols
- Walking, pedaling, public transportation, and car pools are encouraged for staff and guests
- Energy management plans have been implemented, including separate utility meters on individual buildings (for effective monitoring) and digital control systems to better manage temperature and air flow
- As pumps or motors needs replacement, energy efficient units are chosen
- Bio-diesel is used to fuel selected grounds equipment
- With all new construction, the Centre is seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification
- Mountain Culture actively wind credits to offset carbon emissions from their Banff events, and world tour

## **Respecting Nature**

Practices have been adopted to protect the diversity of our natural environment.

- CO2 emissions have been significantly reduced as a result of energy efficient initiatives
- Aerosol products have been phased out in the Hospitality division
- A no-idling policy applies to all motorized vehicles or equipment
- No pesticides are used in grounds maintenance; no salt used on roadways for ice reduction
- Housekeeping, Custodial, and Hospitality use biodegradable, environment-friendly products for nearly all applications
- Environment friendly paint strippers and stains are used
- Noxious weeds, such as the ox-eye daisy, are removed by hand

- Mountain Culture's promotional t-shirt is 100% organic cotton
- Landscaping plans and architectural design integrate with the mountain topography
- Throughout the revitalization project at the Centre, roads and paved areas will be reduced and natural landscaping will be increased. The property will be more pedestrian-friendly, at the same time preserving or restoring natural montane vegetation.
- Revitalization includes a 'no net growth' policy for our residential capacity, and no intensification of the property use, according to regulations established by the Town of Banff, and Parks Canada
- Staff members participate annually in an Earth Day clean-up

### **Sustaining Mountain Places**

Mountain Culture programming at The Banff Centre sponsors research, events, and educational programs on international alpine activities. They promote understanding and appreciation of the world's mountain places.

- Mountain Culture aligns with credible partners who share their passion, and commitment, for the environment.
- Mountain Culture provides platforms to share environmental messages, including films, books, photographs, conferences, forums, and summits

### **Meeting Specific**

Conferences at The Banff Centre provides a number of services with the environment in mind.

- All Banff Centre conferences promotional or information print pieces are available for viewing as pdfs on the website
- Online registration is available
- Teleconferencing facilities are available
- Recycled paper is available for on-site printing, if required
- Refillable water pitchers are used for meetings
- Accommodation and meetings spaces are within walking distance of each other
- The Banff Airporter shuttle (the official airport shuttle provider of The Banff Centre) can efficiently bring your participants to Banff from the Calgary Airport. Group discounts are available.
- Recycle bins for paper, cans, glass, etc. are located throughout The Banff Centre campus, and recycling "blue boxes" are located in every guest room
- Leftover merchandise, food products, supplies, or promotional items may be donated to local schools, or Banff non-profit organizations such as: Santa's Anonymous, The Banff Food Bank, YWCA Community Resource Centre, etc.

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