

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY OVERVIEW

Effective: June 1, 2014 | Last Updated: November 7, 2022

Saint Paul RiverCentre and Xcel Energy Center is committed to being a top destination in the industry. As leaders in sustainability, we continually seek to reduce the environmental impact of our operations and engage both staff and community in these efforts. Our programs focus on six main topics: Waste, Energy, Water, Environmental Procurement, Air Quality, and Staff & Community Engagement.

REPORTING

Most of Saint Paul RiverCentre-Xcel Energy Center's (SPRC-XEC) sustainability programs have goals with metrics that track progress. All utility and waste data is tracked monthly and reported quarterly to the internal team. Annually, a public report is created that details the status of current programs, highlighting successes and discussing the challenges of implementation. Details of tracking and monitoring for each program can be found within the related policy and procedure.

AREAS OF FOCUS

WASTE

As a premier event destination in the Upper Midwest, SPRC-XEC believes that waste is the one sustainability topic that touches everyone in the facility; staff, guests, and vendors alike all see and participate in our handling of waste.

Therefore, since 2009 we have employed a comprehensive waste reduction program that recycles metal, glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, electronics and building materials. Organic material is composted and durable goods are donated, reused or recycled to the greatest extent practicable.

ENERGY

SPRC-XEC prioritizes energy efficiency as one of the most cost-effective sustainability measures available. Our initiatives aimed at conserving energy are focused on both operational efficiency and building equipment upgrades.

We also seek to reduce our carbon footprint beyond what is possible through energy efficiency alone. Therefore, SPRC-XEC has created a renewable energy portfolio, using a mix of on-site solar energy, off-site wind energy purchases and carbon offsets to further reduce our impact.

WATER

Saint Paul RiverCentre is named for and overlooks the Mississippi River. The premier events in Xcel Energy Center are NHL hockey games that would not be possible without fresh water to build the ice rink. Consequently, responsible water use is a logical priority for the SPRC-XEC operation.

PROCUREMENT & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

As a large commercial facility, SPRC-XEC purchases large quantities of materials to operate the building, facilitate events and meet the administrative needs of the company. The materials we purchase are therefore an important element of our environmental footprint, and we seek to minimize our use of toxic and environmentally harmful materials as much as possible.

As such, we have developed a comprehensive Green Purchasing Playbook to guide facility purchases in the categories of: ongoing consumables, cleaning materials and equipment, durable goods and facility operations. Standards in each category define what constitutes a “green” or environmentally preferable purchase. Staff is instructed to purchase green products whenever they meet the product need and fall within 10% of the price of a “standard” purchase.

AIR QUALITY

Good air quality is an important and often-overlooked element of a healthy indoor environment. Our facility focuses specifically on air quality relative to smoking, vehicle exhaust and facility cleaning.

SPRC-XEC is a non-smoking facility, in accordance with Minnesota state law, and additionally prohibits smoking within 25 feet of all entryways. To reduce pollution due to vehicle exhaust, SPRC-XEC prohibits idling of vehicles on loading docks and within exhibition halls, and combustion engine use is prohibited inside the facility during events, unless expressly needed as part of the event.

Because we believe cleaning practices also play a huge role in facility air quality, we employ a comprehensive green cleaning program that guides the products and practices used in maintaining our facility.

STAFF & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SPRC-XEC seeks to be a role model in sustainable operations for other businesses, organizations and individuals within the community. We engage these groups by telling our story on our website and in social media, on facility tours and through presentations. We engage our events in participating in these sustainability efforts, and use joint marketing to help them share their message as well.

New employees receive training in all SPRC-XEC sustainability practices and existing staff is regularly updated on program changes and progress toward our goals. Additional staff engagement activities are held annually to reinforce these efforts and build employees’ connection to these programs.

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