Sustainability Information

First Financial Center, Legends Global and the City of Cincinnati are committed to reducing environmental impact through resource conservation, recycling and environmentally responsible products and practices.

The Design

Elevators & Escalators	The venue's escalators and elevators feature high-efficiency motors and starters. Elevators also automatically shut off interior lighting and ventilation after periods of inactivity to conserve energy.
Insulated Windows	Energy-efficient windows throughout the building feature insulating glass with a special coating that balances natural light and solar control, helping reduce heat gain while still allowing plenty of light.
HVAC	Next-generation HVAC controls with demand-controlled ventilation dynamically adjust airflow based on building occupancy, keeping guests comfortable while reducing overall energy use.
Lighting	More than 90% of the building features energy-efficient LED lighting. Automated controls manage scheduled lighting, while occupancy sensors control lights in select areas.
Low Flow Water Systems	The venue incorporates advanced water-saving systems, including low-flow restroom fixtures and reduced water usage throughout the facility. Toilets operate at 1.6 GPF to help lower overall consumption.
Solar Panels	The roof is equipped with 588 solar panels that help offset daytime energy demands such as HVAC and lighting. The system is estimated to produce 433,415 kWh of renewable energy annually.



The Practices

Cardboard Balers	Cardboard balers help reduce waste volume, support recycling and lower environmental impact by conserving natural resources and reducing carbon emissions. Not only do we recycle cardboard, but we also receive payment for it, typically producing two semi-truck loads of baled cardboard each month.
Donations	The Convention Center repurposes leftover show items by donating them to local nonprofit organizations. Working with event managers and our Donation Coordinator, we identify items that can be reused rather than discarded.
Equipment/ Products	Our housekeeping team uses green-certified soaps and eco-friendly paper products throughout public restrooms. We also use an on-site PathoSans cleaning system that produces effective, non-toxic and environmentally friendly cleaning solutions.
Organic Food Waste Recycling	FFC uses a Power Knot Automatic Food Waste Digester to process food waste within 24 hours. The system breaks down food scraps using microorganisms and oxygen, producing odor-free, environmentally safe water that is discharged through the drain.
Single-Stream Recycling	We are committed to reducing, reusing and recycling whenever possible. Recycling bins are conveniently located throughout meeting rooms and lobby spaces, and our single-stream recycling containers are made from recycled milk cartons. Single-stream recycling allows materials such as plastic, paper, metal and glass to be placed in one bin and separated later at a materials recovery facility. This makes recycling easier while reducing the need for sorting in advance.
Sustainability Committee	Our Sustainability Committee meets monthly to discuss and promote current and future sustainability initiatives. The committee includes representatives from various venue departments and service partners to encourage collaboration and new ideas.
Transportation	FFC is centrally located in walkable downtown Cincinnati, just a short walk from more than 3,400 hotel rooms. The Center is also accessible to travelers through Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, located about 13 miles away. For eco-friendly transportation, 12 bike racks are available on the north and south sides of Elm Street Plaza.



Team Effort

Visitors are encouraged to help contribute to our sustainability efforts.
Here are ways you can help:



Walk, bike or use mass transit options to visit First Financial Center.



Place all **recyclables in correct bins** and encourage others to do so as well.



If you are the last individual in a meeting room, please **turn off the lights.**



Use our eco-friendly **water re-fill stations** to fill water bottles.