

Sustainability Information

First Financial Center

The Convention Center, Legends Global and the City of Cincinnati are committed to operations that reduce environmental impact by focusing on conserving resources, recycling initiatives, and utilizing environmentally friendly products and practices that continually improve these efforts.

The Design

Energy Efficient Elevators & Escalators	The venue's escalators and elevators feature high-efficiency motors and starters. Additionally, our energy-efficient elevators are designed to automatically shut off interior lighting and ventilation after a period of inactivity to conserve energy.
Energy Efficient Windows	The center has energy-efficient windows throughout the building, featuring dual-pane insulating glass with a special coating that balances natural light and solar control. These windows let in plenty of daylight while reducing solar heat gain.
HVAC	Next-generation HVAC controls with on demand-controlled ventilation dynamically adjust airflow based on building occupancy, keeping guests comfortable while significantly reducing energy use.
Lighting	Over 90% of the building features energy-efficient LED lighting. Photocells throughout the center automatically adjust fixture brightness based on natural daylight, while a central control panel manages scheduled lighting. In areas without panel relays, occupancy sensors control the lights.
Low Flow Water Systems	The design incorporates advanced water-saving systems, including low-flow restroom fixtures and reduced water usage in sinks throughout the facility. Toilets operate at 1.6 GPF, reducing overall water consumption.
Solar Panels	The center's roof is equipped with (588) 585 W solar panels. The energy generated by this PV (photovoltaic) system will help offset daytime energy demands, such as HVAC and lighting. All power produced will be used to operate the center, with an estimated 433,415 kwh generated in the first year.

The Practices

Cardboard Balers	Cardboard balers help reduce waste volume, promote recycling, and minimize environmental impact by conserving natural resources and lowering carbon emissions. Not only do we recycle cardboard; we get paid to do so! We typically have (2) semi loads of cardboard picked up monthly.
Donations	The Convention Center offers a donation program that repurposes leftover show items by donating them to local non-profit organizations in the Cincinnati region. Work with your Event Manager and Donation Coordinator to identify items that can be rehomed.
Equipment/Products	Our housekeeping staff uses green certified soap and eco-friendly paper products in our public restrooms. They also use a PathoSans Cleaning System that utilizes on-site chemical generators to produce PathoClean & PathoCide to create a safe, non-toxic, environmentally friendly cleaning solution.
Organic Food Waste Recycling	The FFC uses a Power Knot Automatic Food Waste Digester to process food waste within 24 hours. This enclosed system continuously breaks down all types of food waste—from prep scraps to post-consumer leftovers—using microorganisms and oxygen. The process is odor-free and converts waste into grey water, which is safely discharged down the drain.
Single-Stream Recycling	<p>We are committed to recycling, reducing and reusing as many products as possible. We work hand in hand with our employees, vendors, customers, partners and visitors to minimize our collective impact on the environment. You will find single-stream recycling bins conveniently located in each room and lobby space. Our single-stream recycling cans are made from recycled milk cartons.</p> <p>Commingled recycling, also known as single-stream recycling, is a system where all recyclable materials (plastic, paper, metal, glass) are mixed together in a single collection bin. Guests don't need to sort recyclables before placing them in the bin, as they are separated at a material recovery facility (MRF). This method streamlines the recycling process, making it easier for residents and reducing the need for sorting in advance.</p>
Sustainability Committee	Our Sustainability Committee meets monthly to discuss and promote current and future initiatives. The committee is comprised of at least one member of the various venue departments and service partners to foster a team effort and approach.
Transportation	FFC is centrally located in downtown Cincinnati, just a short walk away from over 3,400 hotel rooms. Conveniently positioned within 500 miles of 60% of the U.S. population, the center is easily accessible for travelers. The Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport is only 13 miles away. For eco-friendly transportation, there are 12 bike rack stations located on the north and south sides of the Elm St 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 the facility.



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.

Level 1: Plaza Lobby (1st Aid), 5th St. Elevator Landing, Hall A, Hall B, Hall C

Level 2: 5th St SE Lobby (201A/B), South of Bridge (210A/B), 6th St NE Lobby (230C)

Level 3: Queen City Ballroom A&B Lobby, 5th St South Central Lobby