

SUPPORT LOCAL CAUSES AND PROJECTS



Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) is committed to supporting our clients to make sustainable choices when hosting their event in Melbourne. A great way to have a positive impact on our wonderful city is to support local social, environmental and economic organisations and projects. Some examples of how to do so are included below, or chat to our friendly Convention Servicing team for other suggestions or MCB partner recommendations.

FOOD DONATION PROGRAMS

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre has an ongoing partnership with [OzHarvest](#), Australia's leading food rescue organisation, collecting quality excess food from commercial outlets and delivering it directly to more than 1,300 charities supporting people in need across the country.

CONFERENCE GIFTS WITH A DIFFERENCE

Consider purchasing speaker or VIP gifts from a local Melbourne organisation with a meaningful cause.

- [SisterWorks](#), a not-for-profit social enterprise, with a mission to support women who are refugees, asylum seekers or migrants to improve their confidence, mental well-being, sense of belonging and economic outlook.
- [Koorie Heritage Trust](#), selling authentic Victorian Aboriginal products and designs.
- [Buy from the Bush](#), a marketplace for rural and regional Australian small businesses following the devastating droughts and bushfires that occurred across numerous rural communities in 2019 and 2020.



A creator at SisterWorks



Koorie Heritage Trust Shop



Buy from the Bush Hamper

LOCAL CARBON OFFSETTING PROGRAMS

Organise an event that protects the climate to the greatest possible extent. The Australian Government has a [Climate Active Carbon Neutral Standard for Events](#) which is a voluntary standard to manage greenhouse gas emissions and to achieve carbon neutrality. It provides best-practice guidance on how to measure, reduce, offset, validate, and report emissions that occur as a result of an event's activities.

For more information and for tools and resources to assist in offsetting the carbon for your event in Melbourne, [click here](#).

TEAM-BUILDING OR PRE/POST-CONFERENCE TOURING IDEAS

A fun way to support local social and environmental causes is to incorporate a team-building activity for delegates as part of your program, or promote pre/post-conference tours to delegates that give back to the community.

- [Phillip Island Nature Parks](#) as part of their conservation efforts offer tailored corporate programs to educate delegates.
- [Food for Change](#), an Australian food charity welcomes volunteers on their Melbourne farm to help harvest crops and make a valuable contribution to the local community.
- [Echidna Walkabout's](#) Koala Recovery Experience involves planting trees to help the recovery of the koala community affected by bushfires in Melbourne and surrounds.

A SOCIAL EVENT WITH A CAUSE

To complement your main conference program, consider hosting a VIP or social event at one of Melbourne's venues with a community program, or use a caterer committed to sustainability.

- [Mabu Mabu](#), a Torres Strait owned and run business on a mission to put Indigenous ingredients in kitchens across Australia and operating multiple venues in Melbourne.
- [STREAT](#), a social enterprise with a goal to stop youth homelessness and disadvantage, offers catering and has venues around Melbourne.
- [Free to Feed's](#) is a social enterprise with the purpose of assisting people seeking asylum to find meaningful employment opportunities using their existing skills and experiences and facilitate community interconnectivity and break the stifling sense of social isolation often faced by these new arrivals. They offer catering and also have a new event space.

LEFTOVER EVENT MATERIALS

While we encourage all our clients to consider no printed material for your event, we understand there may be resources such as registration stands or signage that is unavoidable. Consider recyclable materials and work with your stand builder or exhibition company to donate your leftover event materials and reduce wastage.



Echidna Walkabouts Experience



Mabu Mabu



Free to Feed venue