

Sustainability FAQ

Q: What is the total area of conditioned space in Cobo Center?

A: 2.4 million square feet

Q: Does Cobo Center participate in the annual Greenview Green Venues Report?

A: Yes. Cobo Center has contributed to this global venue comparison since 2016.

Q: Does Cobo Center have any third-party certifications or recognitions?

A: Yes. Cobo Center was the ninth convention center to become GMIC ASTM/APEX certified in 2015, and was re-certified in 2017. Cobo has also received certification from Green Venues Michigan and has been recognized by Keep Michigan Beautiful with their President's Plaque, Detroit Free Press as a Metro Detroit Green Leader, and Detroit EcoWorks as a Sustainable Communities Champion.

Q: Does Cobo Center have a Green Team?

A: Yes. Cobo Center has a Green Committee with members from every department and vendor company in the facility, overseen by a seven-member executive team that includes: General Manager, Cobo Center; General Manager, Centerplate; Director of Operations, Cobo Center; Director of Operations, Centerplate; Senior Marketing and Communications Manager, Cobo Center; Executive Chef, Centerplate; Chief Steward, Centerplate. Weekly meetings plan and execute sustainable operations for the center.

Q: Is there a charge to customers for sustainability measures at their events?

A: All sustainability processes and procedures currently in Cobo Center are provided at no charge to the customer.

Q: Does Cobo Center have a webpage dedicated to sustainability information?

A: Yes. <https://www.cobocenter.com/green>

Q: Does Cobo Center provide customers with a post event sustainability data report?

A: Yes. Cobo Center event managers can provide a report with diversion data, compost data and best practices observed during an event.

Q: What can be recycled at Cobo Center?

A: Cobo Center recycles paper, plastic, glass, metals and wood. A more comprehensive list of what can be recycled, reduced and re-used in Cobo can be found on the website. There are more than 100 stations around the Center to separate paper, cans and bottles and trash.

Q: How do guests donate leftover conference materials?

A: Cobo Center has a recycling station at the west loading docks to help accommodate unused or unwanted conference materials that can be reused.

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Q: What materials are accepted at recycling stations?

A: Common items for the recycling station include: vinyl banners, water bottles, unbroken foam core, conference bags, conference giveaways and set props. If you have questions about what can be donated please contact your event manager and ask to speak with a Cobo Center Green Committee member.

Q: Can event carpet be recycled?

A: Yes. Cobo Center has a vendor to collect and re-sell carpeting.

Q: Can I have compost collection at my event?

A: Yes. We partner with Tuthill Farms to provide compost services. Kitchen, disposable dinnerware and food court waste can be composted. Compost information is available online.

Q: What are your green cleaning policies? A: Cobo Center has an advanced Green cleaning policy focusing on both practices and products.

Q: Does Cobo Center have a Green Roof?

A: Yes. Cobo Center 10,000 square feet of the roof is a living green roof completely covered with vegetation and growing medium, planted over a waterproofing membrane. It also includes drainage and irrigation systems.

Q: Does Cobo Center grow food onsite for caterer use/attendee consumption?

A: Yes. Cobo Center has an extensive herb garden in the living green roof area that provides herbs to the chefs year-round.

Q: Does Cobo Center source food locally?

A: Yes. 70% of food served in Cobo Center is locally sourced. Vegetarian, Vegan and 100% locally sourced options are available with customer menus.

Q: Is unserved food at Cobo Center donated for re-distribution?

A: Yes. A local partner, Forgotten Harvest re-distributes tons of unserved food from Cobo Center annually.

Q: Does Cobo Center conserve energy? How?

A: Yes. Cobo uses: induction lighting in exhibit halls saving 40% electric usage; computer controls for HVAC and lighting throughout the facility, daylight harvesting sensors on the outside of the building to turn off lights when there is enough sunlight to illuminate the building; sensors in all meeting rooms to turn off lights when not in use; curtain walls to keep out cold air during heating season in dock and lobby areas; low flow toilets and faucets in restrooms. Escalators in the building are turned off when not in use.

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Q: Do you utilize alternative energy systems?

A: Yes. Currently, Cobo Center has a water reclamation system that uses Detroit River water instead of potable water to cool condensers on chiller plants, saving more than one hundred thousand dollars annually in energy costs.

Q: Does Cobo Center have sustainable transportation for attendees?

A: Yes. Cobo Center has a light rail transportation station on the 4th floor for the Detroit People Mover, that connects attendees to a large area in downtown Detroit via train.

The People Mover shares a station in Grand Circus Park with the QLINE, a 3.3 mile streetcar system that takes visitors into Midtown and New Center to enjoy the museum campus, theater district and more shops and restaurants.

Bike share services are also available with 25 bikes at the Cobo Center station that can be rented and left at any of the other 43 bike stations in Detroit.

Cobo Center also has several electric car charging stations in the Cobo Center Congress St. Parking Garage.

Q: Does Cobo Center have a dedicated room for nursing mothers?

A: Yes. Room 341 in Cobo Center is dedicated and equipped for use by nursing mothers.