



The Grounds department introduced wooden deer as trail closure signage on any Centre pathways that are not maintained during the winter. The deer were made from trees felled during the Wildfire Fuel Reduction Program.

## Green Initiatives at The Banff Centre

The Banff Centre is proud of its commitment to the environment. Located within Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we place great value on our unique and spectacular mountain environment. The Centre is committed to environmental leadership and performance in all its operations.

Since 2001, the Centre has designated a vice-president as environmental officer. This function is guided by an Environmental Management System approved by the Centre's Board of Governors. A portion of the Centre's annual budget is allocated for specific environmental projects. An Environment Committee includes members from all operations areas at the Centre, acting as a coordinating body for all environmental activities and initiatives.

As a meeting planner, you benefit from the many ways in which The Banff Centre can help you minimize your impact on the environment. We continue to incrementally implement new green initiatives; here is a quick overview of some of our current practices. For more details, please visit [Respecting our Environment](#).

### Waste Management

Waste reduction is a key objective for the Centre and new waste reduction procedures are continuously implemented into Banff Centre operations.

- ✓ The Food & Beverage department purchases food products in bulk
- ✓ 100% recycled napkins and wooden stir sticks are used
- ✓ Elimination of the use of bottled water for meetings and events. As standard procedure, meeting rooms are set with water pitchers and glassware. Containers of tap water are provided at events.
- ✓ All paper used at the Centre is 100% post-consumer recycled.
- ✓ Staff is encouraged to reduce paper use by electronic filing and proofing, and printing pages double-sided.
- ✓ Commercial food waste is diverted from the landfill as part of joint composting initiative with the Town of Banff.
- ✓ Waste audits are performed cyclically, to establish benchmarks and identify possible improvements in waste reduction practices.

## Recycling

To reduce the amount of materials entering the waste stream, the Centre has developed a number of recycling initiatives.

- ✓ Environmental impacts are considered in the choice of products purchased and environmentally responsible suppliers are sourced
- ✓ Convenient on-site collection of paper, magazines, newspaper, cardboard, glass, and metal, for staff and guests
- ✓ Staff is responsible for sorting and separating recycled items
- ✓ Worn out linens are used as rags by Housekeeping, or the Centre's paint and print shops
- ✓ Bottles from all soaps, lotions, or bath products are sent back to the supplier for recycling
- ✓ Packaging from Food & Beverage items is recycled
- ✓ Gravel and sand for winter ice control is recycled
- ✓ Recycled asphalt is used for temporary paths; recycled tires have been used on rooftop walkways
- ✓ Fixtures and furnishings from renovation projects are donated to local charities
- ✓ Cooking grease from the kitchen is saved and picked-up for recycling

## Conservation

Changes have been made, and systems developed, to reduce the Centre's use of electricity, water, and fuel.

- ✓ 95% of the Centre has been retrofitted to high-efficiency lighting
- ✓ Motion/occupancy sensors are installed in public and staff washrooms, and many office spaces, to reduce electricity consumption
- ✓ Exterior exit lights and Christmas lights use energy-saving LED bulbs
- ✓ A Storm Water Management Plan has been implemented. A bio swale to catch and retain storm water and filter pollutants has been built.
- ✓ The Centre is minimizing non-native plants on the grounds, to reduce watering requirements
- ✓ Ultra low flush toilets have been installed in most guest bedrooms. As remaining old models fail, they are replaced with low flush models.
- ✓ Touch-less water-saving washroom faucets, low flow showerheads, and sink aerators have been installed in guest bedrooms
- ✓ Two waterless urinals have been installed in Physical Facilities
- ✓ High efficiency front load washers are used in guest and staff accommodation
- ✓ Guests are encouraged to re-use bed linens and towels
- ✓ Banff Centre vehicles include hybrid and bio-diesel models
- ✓ Walking, pedaling, public transportation, and car pools are encouraged for staff and guests
- ✓ Energy management plans have been implemented, including separate utility meters on individual buildings (for effective monitoring) and digital control systems to better manage temperature and air flow
- ✓ As pumps or motors needs replacement, energy efficient units are chosen
- ✓ Bio-diesel is used to fuel selected grounds equipment
- ✓ All new building construction employs environmental design practices as set out by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Buildings Rating Systems®. Recently constructed buildings have attained LEED® Gold.

## Respecting Nature

Practices have been adopted to protect the diversity of our natural environment.

- ✓ CO2 emissions have been significantly reduced as a result of energy efficient initiatives
- ✓ Aerosol products have been phased out in the Hospitality division
- ✓ A no-idling policy applies to all motorized vehicles or equipment
- ✓ No pesticides are used in grounds maintenance; no salt used on roadways for ice reduction
- ✓ Housekeeping, Custodial, and Hospitality use biodegradable, environment-friendly products for nearly all applications
- ✓ Environment friendly paint strippers and stains are used
- ✓ Noxious weeds, such as the ox-eye daisy, are removed by hand
- ✓ Landscaping plans and architectural design integrate with the mountain topography. Paved areas have

been reduced and natural landscaping has been increased, making for a more pedestrian-friendly property, and at the same time preserving or restoring natural montane vegetation.

- ✓ Staff members participate annually in an Earth Day clean-up and are encouraged to champion green initiatives within their own work areas

### Meetings-Specific

Conferences at The Banff Centre provides a number of services with the environment in mind.

- ✓ The Centre's principle meeting facility (Kinnear Centre for Creativity & Innovation) is engineered to be one of the greenest meeting facilities in Canada attaining LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold designation
- ✓ To keep current with environmental best practices within the meeting and hospitality industry, the Centre participates in eco-rating programs such as Green Leaf, Green Key, and IACC Green Star.
- ✓ All Banff Centre conferences promotional and information print materials are available as digital files
- ✓ Online registration available
- ✓ Paperless digital guest check-in
- ✓ Teleconferencing facilities available
- ✓ Recycled paper is available for on-site printing
- ✓ Digital signage is installed in several buildings
- ✓ Refillable water pitchers are used for meetings
- ✓ Accommodation and meetings spaces are within walking distance of each other
- ✓ Recycle bins for paper, cans, glass, etc. are located throughout the property, and recycling "blue boxes" are located in every guest room
- ✓ Any leftover conference materials are recycled or can be donated
- ✓ We partner with Banff Airporter, an environmentally conscious airport shuttle, and encourage delegates to use this service for their airport transfers

### The Banff Centre

Conferences

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