

The Calgary TELUS Convention Centre has become the first Calgary building to be certified BOMA (Building Owners and Managers Association) Canada "Go Green" in recognition of responsible environmental practices in building operations.



✦ Choose destinations with minimal travel requirements for delegates. Shorter distances result in less environmental impact.

✦ Choose hotels/meeting venues accessible to airport via public transit system.

✦ Give delegates incentives to travel via public transit, such as free passes or transit route maps.

✦ Make sure hotels, meeting venues, and free time activities (restaurants and shops) are all within walking distance of each other.

✦ Confirm that the hotels you are using participate in a linen reuse program, so that bed linens are changed only when requested. Towels can also be reused by leaving them on the rack. Only those on the floor will be washed. This helps save millions of gallons of water and from chlorine and detergents entering the wastewater stream.

✦ If transportation is being

arranged for delegates, choose vehicles powered by one of the following: electric or hybrid energy, natural gas, propane, methane gas, or ethanol. Hertz is one rental company that recently rolled out a "green collection." It now offers a new collection of fuel-efficient, environmentally friendly cars with an EPA highway fuel efficiency rating of 28 miles or more

per gallon. With more than 35,000 cars in its Green Collection, Hertz guarantees availability at 50 major U.S. airport locations. More than 18,000 of the cars are also SmartWay certified, indicating lower emissions or air pollutants and greenhouse gases. EV Rental Cars is said to be the only rental company in the United States to rent only environmental vehicles to the public. EV Rental Cars' fleet has grown to more than 425 cars at eight locations throughout the country. For EPA-certified tips on improving gas mileage, go to www.fueleconomy.gov.

Six Stars for Melbourne

When it opens in 2009, Melbourne's new convention centre will be the only convention facility in the world to have a six-star green energy rating, the highest possible under the Australian Green Building Council rating system.

A black-water recycling plant will recycle wastewater to supply toilets, cooling towers, and irrigate landscapes; solar panels will deliver all public amenity hot water requirements; building materials will be sourced from renewable sustainable industries; and radiant slab heating and an advanced ventilation system will reduce the need for air conditioning.

As an added selling point, future conference delegates will have plenty of fresh air and maximum natural light to look forward to when meeting at the centre.

The Dallas Convention Center is working toward a Green Building Council certification for its cleaning, maintenance issues, indoor air quality, electrical and water use, and its recycling programs.



ing buildings there, including the Dallas Convention Center, are working toward a related certificate with the Green Building Council. That building certification addresses cleaning and maintenance issues, indoor air quality, reduction in electrical and water usage, and recycling programs.

In Canada, as befits an environmentally forward city, the expansion of the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre has been designed to minimize environmental

impact, and in some cases, even improve the surroundings. These design features include:

- ✦ Canada's largest living roof, complete with a rain-water irrigation system;
- ✦ Energy efficient design making use of natural light and ventilation.
- ✦ On-site water management, including a seawater cooling system.
- ✦ Marine habitat restoration and shoreline replacement, including benches on the water side of the expansion to create a new fish habitat in Burrard Inlet.

Environmentality and Pixie Dust

Walt Disney World Resort is a city unto itself. It has all the elements that go into providing support services for thousands of people including water, energy, and waste management. The resort strives to focus on conservation, waste minimization, education, awareness, and research, and www.DisneysEnvironmentality.com offers a wealth of information on the environment including a handy carbon calculator that will help you discover your carbon footprint with mascot Jiminy Cricket on hand to help.

- ✦ Of the 30,000 acres at the Walt Disney World Resort, nearly one-third of the property was set aside from the beginning and remains a dedicated wildlife conservation area.
- ✦ Another 8,500 acres south of the Walt Disney World Resort is the Nature Conservancy's Disney Wilderness Preserve, a \$45 million living laboratory for land restoration. The Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund (DWCF) annual awards program supports scientific research and habitat protection in more than 40 countries.
- ✦ To date, the DWCF has supported 450 projects totaling \$8.5 million.
- ✦ Each day, 10 million gallons of water is reclaimed (recycled) and used in irrigation throughout the property.
- ✦ The Disney Harvest program collects food which was prepared, but not served, from the restaurants and distributes nearly 50,000 pounds of food per month to Second Harvest Food Bank.

The Calgary TELUS Convention Centre (CTCC) has become the first Calgary Building to be certified BOMA Go Green in recognition of responsible environmental practices in building operations.

Go Green was introduced by BOMA, (Building Owners and Managers Association) Canada in April 2005 as a National Environmental Certification of best practices in building operations. BOMA Go Green is the only industry-recognized environmental program and the only program endorsed by BOMA.

BOMA Go Green focuses on five key areas where commercial buildings have environmental impacts: Resource consumption (energy); waste reduction and recycling; building materials; interior environment; and tenant awareness.

Convention centers, hotels, resorts, and others in the meeting and hospitality industry are recognizing that global warming is not a political issue; it's a moral issue facing global civilization and it's up to all of us to make changes that make a difference. ■

↔ Andrea Doyle is *Convene's* senior writer.