

COLUMBIA METROPOLITAN CONVENTION CENTER

A GREEN INITIATIVE 

Sarah Britt

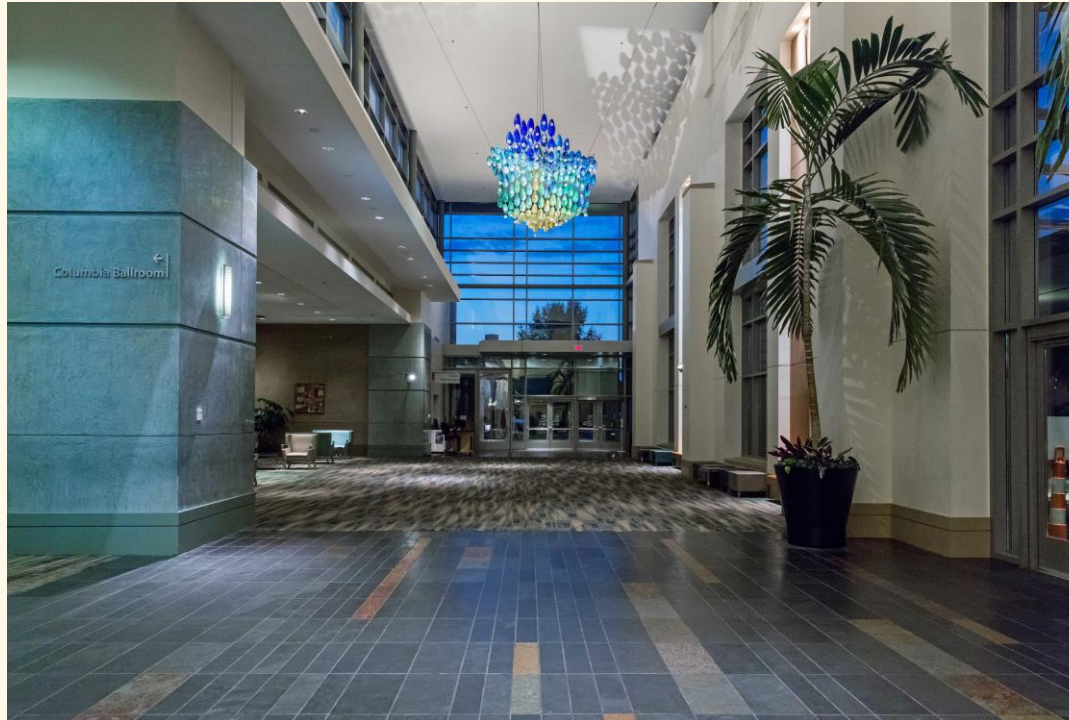
WHO WE ARE

- 142,500 square foot convention center opening in fall 2004
 - 17,000 square foot Ballroom
 - 24,000 square foot Exhibit Hall
 - 59,000 square feet of additional meeting rooms
- Average 350 events/ year
- 200,000- 380,000 attendees through the building annually
 - 35 full-time employees



HISTORY

- Committee formed in early 2015 at General Manager's Direction
 - At least 1 person from each Department
 - **Mission:** Save Energy, Reduce Waste
 - **Budget:** As long as it costs nothing its ok 😊



2017 HIGHLIGHTS

RECYCLING



Over 13,000 lbs.
**OF CARDBOARD
RECYCLED**

And we received cash credit!

34.1%
**WASTE DIVERTED
FROM LANDFILLS**

*Goal in 2018? Pass national
average of 34.5%.*



FOOD SERVICE



Over 34,000 lbs.
**COMPOSTED
FOOD WASTE**

*52,000 lbs. since start of
program in April 2016*



Approx. 2,500 lbs.
**UNTOUCHED LEFTOVER
FOOD DONATED
TO HOMELESS SHELTER**



**USED COOKING OIL
RECYCLED &
REPURPOSED
FOR BIO DIESEL**

80%

of catered food sourced
within 150 miles, reducing carbon
footprint & delivering fresh product

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



10%
**ENERGY
REDUCTION**

AUTOMATED CLIMATE
CONTROL HVAC SYSTEM



Over 804,000 gallons
WATER SAVED ANNUALLY

LOW FLOW & AUTOMATIC
PLUMBING IN ALL RESTROOMS

100%

LED LIGHTING IN BUILDING



67%

ENERGY REDUCTION

**All statistics based on 2017 data*

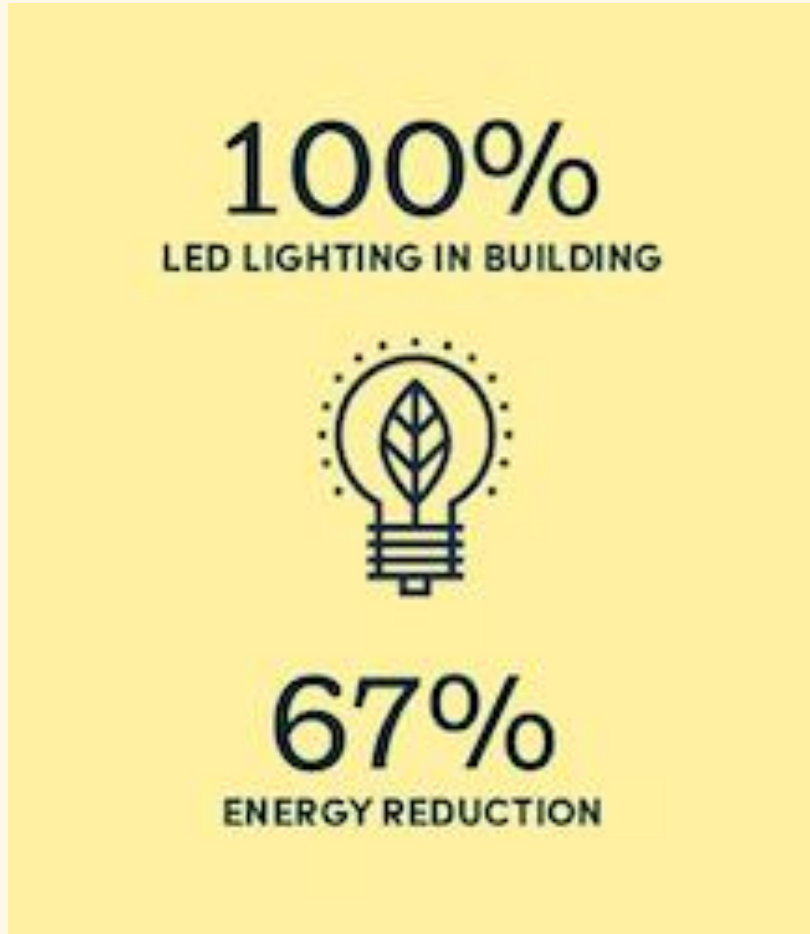
SAVE ENERGY

Sustainability = in line with overall goal to operate a facility efficiency

- Low-E glass windows
- New Trane Climate Control BAC installed in 2015
 - Lights & escalators off unless rented
 - Low Flow Faucets and toilets



SAVE ENERGY



Our catering team sources 80% of our food within 150 miles during growing seasons (spring, summer and fall)

- Reduces the carbon footprint
- Allows us to serve a fresh local product



SAVE ENERGY

We grow fresh herbs onsite that our Chef harvests and uses in the meals we serve, which reduces emissions on travel to get here, and is a fun way for our committee to get some hands on green time in



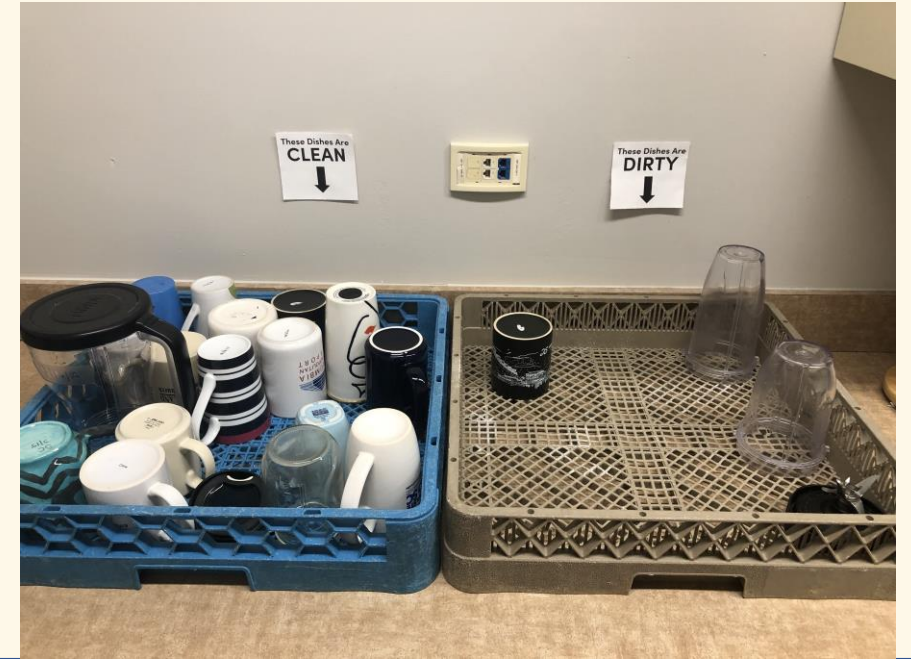
REDUCE WASTE

Generate Less

- Final number just 3 business days before their event to allow us to order based on their actual attendance
 - Electronic communication & storage of all files
 - Reference event history to adjust ordering for the least amount of waste
- Use china & glasses instead of disposable and bottled beverages unless specifically requested



- Coffee Cup Bar



REDUCE WASTE

Composting & Donation

- We donate untouched food kept at safe temperatures to Oliver Gospel Mission, a local charity that serves a hot buffet daily to homeless
 - All back of house food waste is composted
 - Water bottle filling station to reduce plastic water bottle usage



RECYCLING!

Mixed Recyclables



City of Columbia weekly pickup, taken to Sonoco Recycling

RECYCLING!



Challenges

Thousands of new people through the building each day.

Empathy

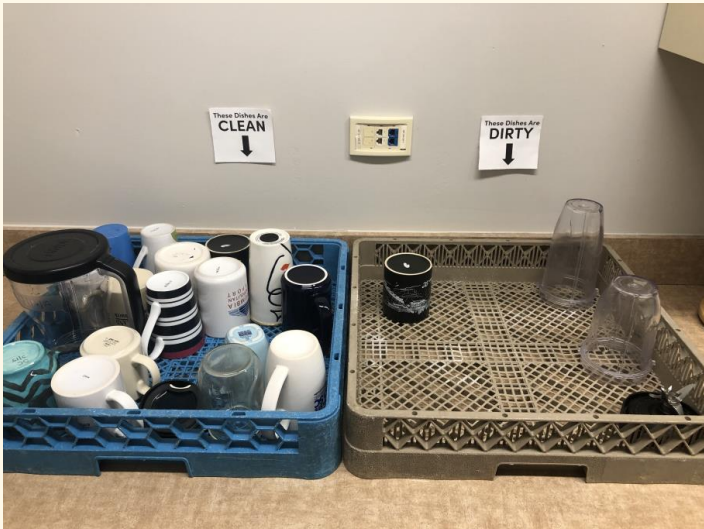
Laziness

NO ONE READS!!!

RECYCLING!

Solutions

- Make it more convenient for them to recycle than to throw away.
- In person training, 2-3 times per year.
- Small Reminders daily



RECYCLING!

Cardboard Compactor



25,840 pounds recycled in 2018

\$370 paid back in rebates

RECYCLING!

Used Cooking Oil



3,250 pounds recycled in 2018

City of Columbia program- Valley Protein

Repurposed for biodiesel

Scrap Metal Recycling

2,200 pounds recycling in 2018

CMC Commercial Metals

\$756 received for scrap metal

Pallets



Just started tracking in 2019

LESSONS LEARNED

- 1) It takes a village
- 2) Repetition is key.
- 3) Don't reinvent the wheel.
- 4) Celebrate your victories.
- 5) You have to explain why it matters, and how it makes a difference.
- 6) NO ONE READS!



QUESTIONS?

Thank you!