

Sustainable Facility Operations

The Seattle Convention Center's (SCC) sustainability mission guides us to continually look for ways to be environmentally prudent in how we run all facets of our operations. These efforts date back to when we opened Arch in 1988.

This list includes a variety of ways we strive to meet that mission.

LEED Certification for Buildings

- Summit – LEED Platinum for new construction
- Arch at 705 Pike – LEED Silver for operations and maintenance
- Arch at 800 Pike – LEED Silver for sustainable construction practices, furnishings, and equipment

Waste Minimization

- A waste diversion rate of 78%, ranking in the top 5% of businesses nationwide.
- Low flow plumbing fixtures save 80% of water usage in comparison to standard models.
- Energy Star-certified solid ink printers.
- Cup and water bottle-filling stations.
- Summit has two large tanks to capture rainwater: One is a 220,000-gallon tank to collect non-harvested dirty storm water, and the second is a 180,000-gallon tank to collect harvested clean storm water. The dirty storm water will go through a filtering process to become the harvested clean storm water. The clean storm water will be used for landscaping irrigation as well as toilet flushing.
- Summit's food waste dehydrators reduce waste volume and weight by up to 90%.
- Summit's construction debris was diverted from disposal in landfills and incineration facilities. Materials that could be recycled were sent back to be manufactured into reusable products.
- When replacing Arch's 225,000 square feet of carpeting in 2011, 95% of it was recycled and over 200,000 pounds of waste was diverted from the landfill. Nearly 90% of all 2011 renovation waste was reclaimed and recycled.

Renewable Resources

- Convenient recycle and compost stations are available at no additional charge.
- 100% compostable utensils, plates, cups, coffee stir sticks, and box lunch items.
- A local composting firm hauls away all food scraps, food-soiled paper, and landscape trimmings. That same firm provides clean compost for use in our indoor and outdoor gardens.
- Summit's interior incorporates sustainably sourced, recyclable, and recycled content. This includes plant-based acoustic ceiling tiles with 71 percent recycled content, bio-based fabric panels, a ballroom ceiling made of reclaimed worm wood from old log booms, and benches constructed from large, salvaged timbers.
- Arch's interior incorporates long-life toxin-free porcelain tile, Greengard and NFS-certified solid surfacing material, carpet and wall coverings made of recycled materials, and low VOC paints, paneling, and trim.

Green Operations

- All food service equipment is Energy Star-rated.
- Enhanced sustainable cleaning operations are performed with an energy efficient, battery-operated HEPA carpet sweeper that maintains the building while managing air quality.
- Green Seal-certified products and machines are used to perform 80% of the building maintenance needs.
- Green Seal-certified paper products and soap, low-flow toilets and touchless faucets are used in the restrooms.
- The Summit building achieved Salmon-Safe certification.

Carbon Management Strategy

- Electric vehicle charging stations are available at both Arch and Summit.
- Summit's rooftop photovoltaic (solar) panels improve the building's energy performance by 30 percent over the baseline building-performance rating. They will initially generate 75 kilowatts and has the capacity to produce up to 228 KW.
- Summit features a programmable building management system to meet and/or exceed current energy standards and run the facility as inexpensively and as green as possible.
 - o Lighting: Sensors assist with "daylight harvesting" to make maximum use of natural daylight and will dim interior lights when exterior lighting achieves the desired lighting level in a given area.
 - o HVAC: Sensors control window shades to open to allow sunlight to warm spaces (vs HVAC) or to close those shades to avoid overheating an area.
 - o Radiant floors are located on Levels 2 through 5 on the south-facing side of Summit and on Levels 3 and 4 on the Boren Concourse on the east-facing side of the two meeting room levels. Polished concrete floors will absorb heat from the sun to aid in warming the spaces. The floors have water pipes running through them to:
 - Provide cool circulated water to absorb the sun generated heat during warmer months rather than running the AC longer, and
 - Provide warm (or hot) circulated water to generate heat in the cooler months rather than running the heat longer.
- LED light installations in Arch save over 3,000,000 kilowatt hours annually, the equivalent of 337 households. In 2019, we replaced 383 175-watt metal halide light fixtures with 56W LED fixtures for an additional estimated electrical savings of 445,060 kWh per year.

Suppliers

- Our linens are supplied by a green-certified firm that has won awards for waste reduction; steam from their operation is recaptured to run machinery, and gray water from cleaning process is reclaimed, filtered, and reused.
- Like much of downtown Seattle, Arch is heated by steam from a plant that uses waste wood as fuel. About 60 percent of this steam energy is created by wood supplied from construction sites, sawmills, factory crates and shipping pallets that would otherwise rot in a landfill.

Green Initiative Awards

- Seattle 2030 District – Vision Award for Water, Summit
- Northwest Meetings + Events Magazine – Best Green Venue in Washington
- Seattle Business Magazine – Washington’s Green 50 Award
- Washington State Recycling Association – Recycler of the Year- Public Agency