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# Cobo Center Earns Green Venue Certification

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By Matt Alderton  
January 17, 2012

The Cobo Conference & Exhibition Center in downtown Detroit has earned Green Venues Michigan (GLM) Steward certification from the Michigan Energy Office, it announced this month.

The voluntary, non-regulatory certification encourages entertainment venues, convention centers and similar facilities to implement environmental initiatives and cost-saving "green" practices to conserve energy, reduce water consumption, protect air quality, reduce waste and participate in environmentally preferred purchasing.

"Cost-saving green business practices have been extremely positive for job creation and retention in the hospitality sector," said Martin Dober, vice president of new markets for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). "Venues across the state are continuing to show their commitment to environmental responsibility by earning Green Venues accreditation."

The Cobo Center was awarded Green Venues certification based on its implementation of several environmental initiatives, including:

- The Cobo Center Green Committee meets several times monthly to promote sustainability practices and green initiatives, and has members from every department and in-house contracting company.
- The Cobo Center has a property-wide recycling program that includes cardboard, paper, glass, plastic and metal.
- The Cobo Center purchases a minimum 30 percent post consumer recycled content paper products.
- The Cobo Center has a "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" initiative.
- The Cobo Center's HVAC is controlled by a computerized energy management system.
- The Cobo Center features induction lighting in its exhibit halls.
- A majority of lighting at the Cobo Center is controlled by photocells, timer, occupancy sensors or by the energy management system.
- The Cobo Center has air curtains on the doors of the exhibit floor vestibule.
- The Cobo Center recently conducted an energy audit to help identify other energy conservation opportunities.

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"Organizing our Cobo Center green operations around the Green Venues Michigan certification mandates provided us efficiency in planning and implementing our cost-effective waste stream diversion measures," said Thom Connors, SMG regional vice president and general manager of the Cobo Center. "We are committed to environmental stewardship in our community, and happy to become the largest Green Venues Michigan facility in the state."

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