



# LOVE THIS *Earth.*

When our big priority is to focus on little changes; it suddenly becomes very simple.

*We* **DO!**

GOLD COAST CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE  
**GREEN INITIATIVES**



**EARTHCheck**  
SILVER CERTIFIED 2011



gold | convention and  
coast | exhibition centre

[www.gceec.com.au](http://www.gceec.com.au)

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## **Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) Green Initiatives**

Located on the sub-tropical east coast of Australia, the Gold Coast has pristine waterways, unspoilt islands, and more than 70 kilometres of crystal white sand beaches framed by 100,000 hectares of rainforest. One of Australia's favourite leisure destinations is also a favourite place to do business. The Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre (GCCEC) is Australia's largest and most attended regional convention centre, located just 500 metres from those crystal white sands in the heart of Broadbeach.

Since its inception in 2004, GCCEC has been implementing best practice environmental standards to minimise its carbon footprint. The Centre has formed a dedicated green committee consisting of members from each department to drive behaviour and operational practices in line with the international standards required by the EarthCheck Program. Over the past year, EarthCheck, the largest environmental management system in use by the travel and tourism industry, has helped more than 1100 organisations in over 65 countries to reduce their consumption of natural resources. Ensuring a proactive approach across the entire company, the GCCEC green committee has helped the Centre re-achieve the **EarthCheck Silver Certification**, making it a leader among Australia's sustainable conferencing venues and a bench mark operator in the MICE sector.



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## Green Initiatives

Enhancing green practices across the organisation and maintaining operational standards in line with environmental benchmarks, GCCEC has implemented a number of green initiatives across the organisation. Green management plans for energy, water and waste have been developed with targets of best practices in all areas, with each of these briefly outlined as follows.

### Energy Conservation

#### Air Conditioning

86 Fan Coil Units to provide the entire air conditioning solutions for the Centre, with all of these units utilising VSDs (variable speed devices) to allow for minimum power being drawn. Air quality tests are done on an annual basis with detailed reports supplied to ensure air conditioning air quality is of premium standard.

#### Lighting Control

The Centre has undertaken a scope of work introducing sensor activated lighting controls to all public amenities. It has also taken on fitting LED lighting to areas that can generate a marked saving in running costs and add to the energy efficiency of the building. Installation of new external and stair tread LED lights have cut usage from 18W per unit to 3W per unit.



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## Water Conservation

### Mains Water

GCCEC has undertaken works on all taps, showers and other water using devices to comply with Queensland Water Commission guidelines. The Centre has had all taps fitted with flow restriction devices which have seen water flow reduced from approximately 30 litres per minute back to 6 and even 4.5 litres per minute. All toilets are dual flush units with a 6/3 litres per minute flow rate. Urinals within GCCEC are fitted to zip-master time delay flush systems, with a flow rate of 6 litres per minute.

Air Conditioning and evaporative cooling towers have been fitted with a meter on supply water for a daily reading to be logged and monitored for leaks or out-of-hours discrepancies. The air conditioning system is only operated on demand, and is shut down at the earliest possible time to minimise water usage by the system.

### Recycled Water

The Centre uses Class A recycled (non-potable) water, supplied by the Gold Coast City Council from its Elanora and Merrimac Treatment works. Recycled water is additionally treated on site by GCCEC via such methods as a cyclone filter and a set of sand filters followed with disinfection by ultraviolet light and chlorination. Recycled water is used for the landscape irrigation system, operating in accordance with the National Guidelines. External taps fitted with vandal proof tap heads are also supplied with recycled water.



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## **Waste Management and Minimisation**

GCCEC uses a number of waste management strategies to avoid and minimise waste. These also reduce hazards, costs, conserve resources and protect the environment. Waste management strategies include waste avoidance, reuse, minimisation, recycling, energy recovery, segregation, treatment and disposal.

Onsite recycling is carried out within all GCCEC offices and in-house events.

The Centre has dedicated back of house waste storage areas in consultation with private waste contractors, the EPA and HACCP requirements.

Custom made bins purchased for front of house areas allow for refuse to be separated.

BottleCyclers (device for crushing used glass bottles to reduce landfill and waste) has been in operation in the back of house area for 12 months. This device reduces the disposable volume of empty bottles by 80 per cent. After glass is fed through the BottleCycler, it is picked up and recycled by an offsite company.

Implementation of an ongoing waste management education and training program caters for all staff including management.

Waste management principles are promoted throughout the Centre on signs, posters and notice boards, and internally to staff via various communication channels.



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## Other **GCCEC** Sustainable Initiatives

- All used printer cartridges and toners are recycled through Australia Post and Planet Ark.
- 100% recycled paper is used throughout all printers and faxes.
- GCCEC has worked with local suppliers to change the way goods are being packaged and delivered. Most suppliers are now using cardboard boxes that are then recycled onsite.
- GCCEC menus consist of 85 % locally grown and organic ingredients including Madura tea, seafood from the Tweed and Sunshine coast, beef and lamb products from northern NSW and the Toowoomba region, micro herbs from the Hinterland, fruit & vegetables (seasonal) from the Salad Bowl in the Lockyer Valley, biscuits from the Gold Coast and banana breads and energy bars (Brookfarm) from Byron Bay. The Centre considers 'local' as ingredients purchased within 200km of the venue.
- Meeting materials no longer required can be recycled on-site, but additionally the Centre has released a **Green Event Guide** encouraging event planners to minimise meeting and promotional materials during an event as part of the Centre's belief that minimising should come before recycling. The Green Event Guide is available to download from [www.gccec.com.au](http://www.gccec.com.au).
- Leftover packaged foods from events are donated to local food banks.
- GCCEC is located walking distance of 1,600 hotel rooms reducing the need for travel.
- Naturally lit foyers can eliminate the need for artificial lighting during the day.
- Wireless internet access throughout the Centre allows delegates to send and receive emails, access the internet and connect directly to their office, wirelessly from anywhere within the venue, reducing the need for paper.
- Biodegradable and environmentally safe cleaning products are used throughout the premises.
- GCCEC branded pens are made from 100% recycled plastic.

