

Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre Signs Up for Sustainability

The Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre has embarked on a new drive to boost environmental awareness in the business events sector, through its involvement in a Government sustainability program.

The Centre has signed up for the 18-month New South Wales Government Sustainability Advantage Program in order to identify new measures that will help the venue and its clients achieve a better environment.

Operated by the Department of Environment and Climate Change, the program is designed to boost business understanding of sustainability and assist in the identification and management of present and future environmental issues, with a particular focus on energy efficiency.

Centre Chief Executive Ton van Amerongen said the venue's participation in the program would complement its existing initiatives and help it achieve even better results.

"We are very proud of the Centre's leadership on environmental issues within the business events industry but we want to achieve more," Mr van Amerongen said.

"Participation in this scheme will raise the bar higher for us and help us discover new ways that we can reduce the impact of events on the environment."

The Centre has been a leader in environmental practices over the past six years.

Since 2003 it has increased recycling volumes by 184 per cent annually and in 2008 it recycled an impressive 46 per cent of its exhibition waste stream.

Its efforts to divert material from landfill prevented the creation of 636 tonnes of greenhouse gas - an achievement equivalent to taking 298 cars off Australian roads for a year.

Mr van Amerongen said the Centre was the first Australian venue, and one of only a handful worldwide, to be presently undertaking the accreditation process to become a silver Green Globe benchmarked venue. This comes two years after the Centre became one of the first two convention centres in the world to receive Green Globe benchmark accreditation for its environmental programs.

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