

# Pennsylvania Convention Center Sustainability & Impact Report 2024



AN  MANAGED FACILITY

*on the rise*





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## About This Report

The Pennsylvania Convention Center is mindful of its responsibility to the community and environment and is committed to publicly reporting on its sustainability goals, visions, and initiatives on an annual basis. The 2024 Sustainability Report covers the environmental sustainability operations and social responsibility initiatives at the Pennsylvania Convention Center for the 2024 calendar year. The Pennsylvania Convention Center’s environmental sustainability performance is mainly affected by factors related to event activity, such as event size, event type, seasonal weather patterns and energy efficiency.

# Leadership Message

The Pennsylvania Convention Center’s commitment to sustainability and social responsibility has been a long-standing priority for our team. As a steward of the public good, our mission is to operate in a manner that leads to the advancement of the Greater Philadelphia region, while also ensuring that every facet of our operations meets the highest sustainability standards.

This year, we are proud to say that this commitment to sustainability was recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council, and the facility was awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) v4.1 Operations + Maintenance

(O+M): Existing Buildings Silver certification. These certifications are a crucial benchmark for organizations and meeting planners when selecting a venue for their events.

The Pennsylvania Convention Center has been successful in aligning our goals with our customers’ sustainability goals, allowing us to facilitate strategic partnerships that result in meaningful impact. During the year, sustainable events hosted at the Center increased by 64%, signifying the growing importance of sustainability among event planners and the trust that our customers place in our ability to expertly host green events.

Additionally, our expanded focus on our community outreach programs benefited more than 15 local nonprofit and educational organizations, reaffirming our commitment to investing in the community in which we serve.

Looking ahead, the Pennsylvania Convention Center will remain committed to enhancing and further developing our sustainability and social responsibility programs, to ensure that our impact continues to be meaningful for the Greater Philadelphia community.



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Pennsylvania Convention  
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# A Year of Sustainable Growth

Located in the heart of downtown Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Convention Center continues to be one of the nation’s premier event facilities and a key economic driver for the Greater Philadelphia region.

In 2024, the Center experienced a year of growth, hosting 147 events and welcoming 942,977 attendees, an increase of approximately 9.5% compared to 2023. This uptick in the facility’s core business was accompanied by an elevated focus on sustainability and social responsibility, as the Center remained unwavering in its commitment to reducing the environmental effects of its operations and making a meaningful impact on the community in which it serves.

During the year, as a result of the facility’s innovative approach to sustainability, the Pennsylvania Convention Center earned new industry certifications, while also maintaining its original sustainability accreditations. The facility’s industry-verified expertise in environmental management and efficiency resulted in a significant increase in the number of green events hosted at the Center, as meeting planners have come to value the Pennsylvania Convention Center as a trusted venue partner for their sustainable events.

The Center’s “Green Team” collaborated closely with these customers throughout the year to support their sustainability initiatives and, as a result of these efforts, the Center once again exceeded its waste diversion rate goal.



Additionally, the Pennsylvania Convention Center expanded its internal sustainability and social responsibility initiatives, adding a variety of educational programming such as facility tours, workshops, and presentations to share the Center’s best practices and general expertise in sustainable building management, business strategies, and events. The use of technology also continued to be a key component of the building’s sustainability operations and during the year, programming and technology enhancements were made to the Center’s building automation system to improve its energy monitoring and reporting capabilities.

Under the ASM Global Acts program, the Center also placed an increased focus on community outreach initiatives, partnering with several nonprofit and educational organizations to facilitate

volunteer and donation opportunities for the Center’s team, school building tours and career guidance workshops, and specialty training focused on accessibility. The Center’s event donation program also became a more formalized initiative, and there was a 57% increase in the number of event customers that participated in the program, providing local organizations with much-needed items that remain at the end of an event.

The upward momentum experienced by the Pennsylvania Convention Center in 2024 is expected to continue over the next few years, and as our industry continues to rise, the Center will remain a leading voice for sustainability and social responsibility.



# 2024 Achievements



## Achieved the LEED® v4.1 O+M: Existing Buildings Silver certification.

The Pennsylvania Convention Center achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) v4.1 Operations + Maintenance (O+M): Existing Buildings Silver certification in June 2024. This latest LEED® certification is the second for the facility, which achieved the LEED® Gold certification for New Construction in 2011, based on the building’s physical design and construction. The LEED® Silver O&M certification rates facilities on location and transportation, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation.



## Earned EIC Venue Sustainable Event Standards Gold Recertification.

In July 2024, the Center received its gold recertification for the Events Industry Council (EIC) Sustainable Event Standards for venues. This recertification underscores the Center’s commitment to sustainability and social responsibility.

### GBAC STAR Reaccreditation.

For the fifth year, the Center received its certification for the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) STAR accreditation. Achieving reaccreditation verifies that the Pennsylvania Convention Center continues to evolve, improve and advance with the performance-based GBAC STAR program elements for infectious disease control.



## Hosted Doing Green Business with the Pennsylvania Convention Center

In April 2024, the Pennsylvania Convention Center hosted its first sustainability focused workshop, “Doing Green Business with the Pennsylvania Convention Center” as part of its “Doing Business” series.

## Expanded and Formalized Event Donation Program

In February 2024, the Pennsylvania Convention Center formalized its donation program for inclusion in the facility’s [Plan of Operations](#).

## Enhanced Building Automation Programming

The Pennsylvania Convention Center’s facility operates with the SIEMENS DESIGO building automation system (BAS). During the year, programming and technology enhancements were made to customize and color code the BAS graphics for the data points and a facility plan view of equipment on/off status. Other enhancements included instructional information for monitoring equipment operations, alarm protocol and troubleshooting.

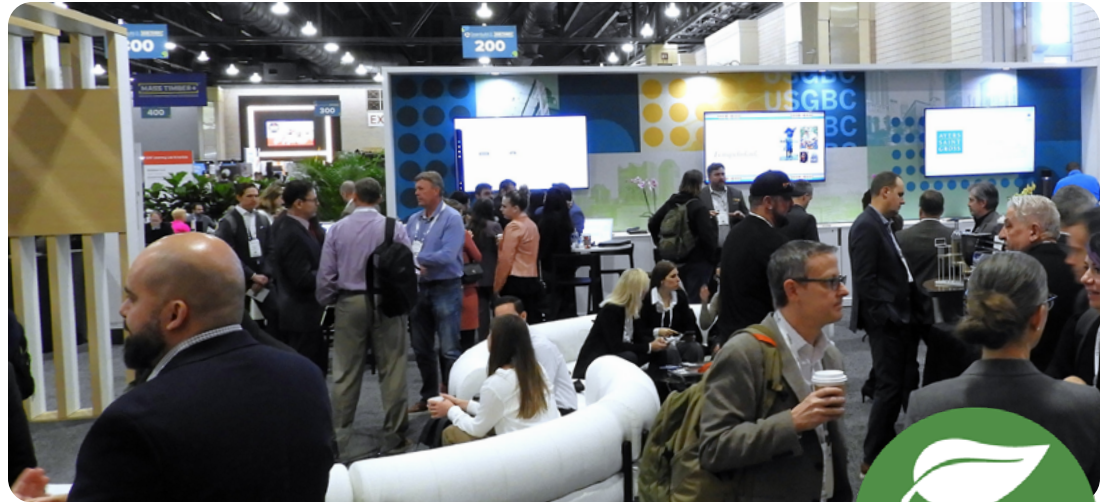
# Sustainable Events

The interest and commitment to hold sustainable events has grown industry-wide in recent years and the Center's "Green Team" partners with customers to facilitate waste sorting and recycling, utility usage and waste diversion rate tracking, and assist with other special needs.

In 2024, the Pennsylvania Convention Center hosted 19 sustainable events, an increase of approximately 64% compared to 2023. One of these events was the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, the largest gathering of green building professionals worldwide.

Before the event, the "Green Team" and the show's management held a joint operations meeting to review the event's sustainability plan to ensure the smooth execution of the collaborative sustainability initiatives.

**"It is essential for Greenbuild to partner with venues like the LEED-certified Pennsylvania Convention Center that prioritize our sustainability goals. Greenbuild has stringent sustainability standards that our event team, exhibitors, and attendees rely on. Therefore, we must produce and execute a sustainable event, tracking our water, energy use, waste, etc. We want to thank the Pennsylvania Convention Center, which made this possible for us at Greenbuild 2024." – Katie Gillham, Event Director, Greenbuild.**



*Greenbuild International Conference and Expo 2024 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.*



*Pennsylvania Convention Center "Green Team" and Greenbuild joint operations meeting*



# Sustainable Events

## Pennsylvania Convention Center/ASM Global Event Donation Program

Through the recently expanded and formalized event donation program, the Pennsylvania Convention Center collaborates with customers to provide local charities, nonprofit, and educational organizations with gently used items that may remain at the conclusion of an event.

In 2024, the Center partnered with 11 events to donate various items including furniture, bags, stationery, and clothing to local organizations. This was an increase of 57% compared to 2023.

Apart from being a key initiative that supports community engagement and the Center’s commitment to giving back to the local community, the donation program also plays an important role in environmental sustainability.

By repurposing and sourcing new homes for the event items, the Center and its customers help to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfills, resulting in many benefits for the environment.

11 Events  
Partnered with the  
Pennsylvania  
Convention Center



Supporting more than  
15  
Local nonprofit  
organizations



To donate more than  
1000  
Items



# Sustainability Projects

## SIEMENS DESIGO Kiosk

A touchpoint screen kiosk was installed in the West Central Plant that tracks real-time building automation system readings and equipment status with customized data points and graphics for temperature, humidity and CO2.



## East Central Plant Absorber Replacements

Two water-cooled, two stage, direct fired absorption chillers were installed and commissioned in the East Central Plant in 2024.

Absorbers reduce the cost and use of electricity, hot water, heating, and cooling in the facility due to their lack of compressors. They provide their greatest benefits for energy efficiency during the spring and fall seasons when temperatures are marginal and electric chillers and compressors are needed less or not at all.

The project required the demolition and rebuilding of a roof-level brick wall opening to remove the old equipment and install the new equipment.

## Dry Coolers Installation

Dry coolers were installed to provide efficient cooling solutions for the Center's data and server rooms for the network, fire, security, digital, and surveillance systems, by maintaining an optimal temperature of between 34 and zero degrees Fahrenheit. Dry coolers do not require a constant supply of water and reduce the use of cooling towers, water pumps and water treatment systems.

## New Boiler Controllers

The boiler controllers in the East Central Plant were upgraded to improve the efficiency of the boiler operations.

## Keystone Boardroom Construction

At the end of 2024, the Pennsylvania Convention Center completed the construction of its Keystone Boardroom, located in the Center's third floor Overlook area. The more than 1,700-square-foot room is enclosed by glass, providing guests with natural light and impressive views of the city to the west.

Customers will have full access to the room's state-of-the-art technology including four large mobile LED monitor displays for presentations, touchpads that connect to various meeting apps for easy access to virtual meetings, and sophisticated camera, speaker, and microphone systems.

A standout feature of the new boardroom is a custom-built light maple conference table crafted by Paul Down Cabinetmakers of Bridgeport, PA. The 40' x 9' table can comfortably seat 36 people and, in a nod to the state's heritage, the table's legs are shaped like the commonwealth's keystone logo.

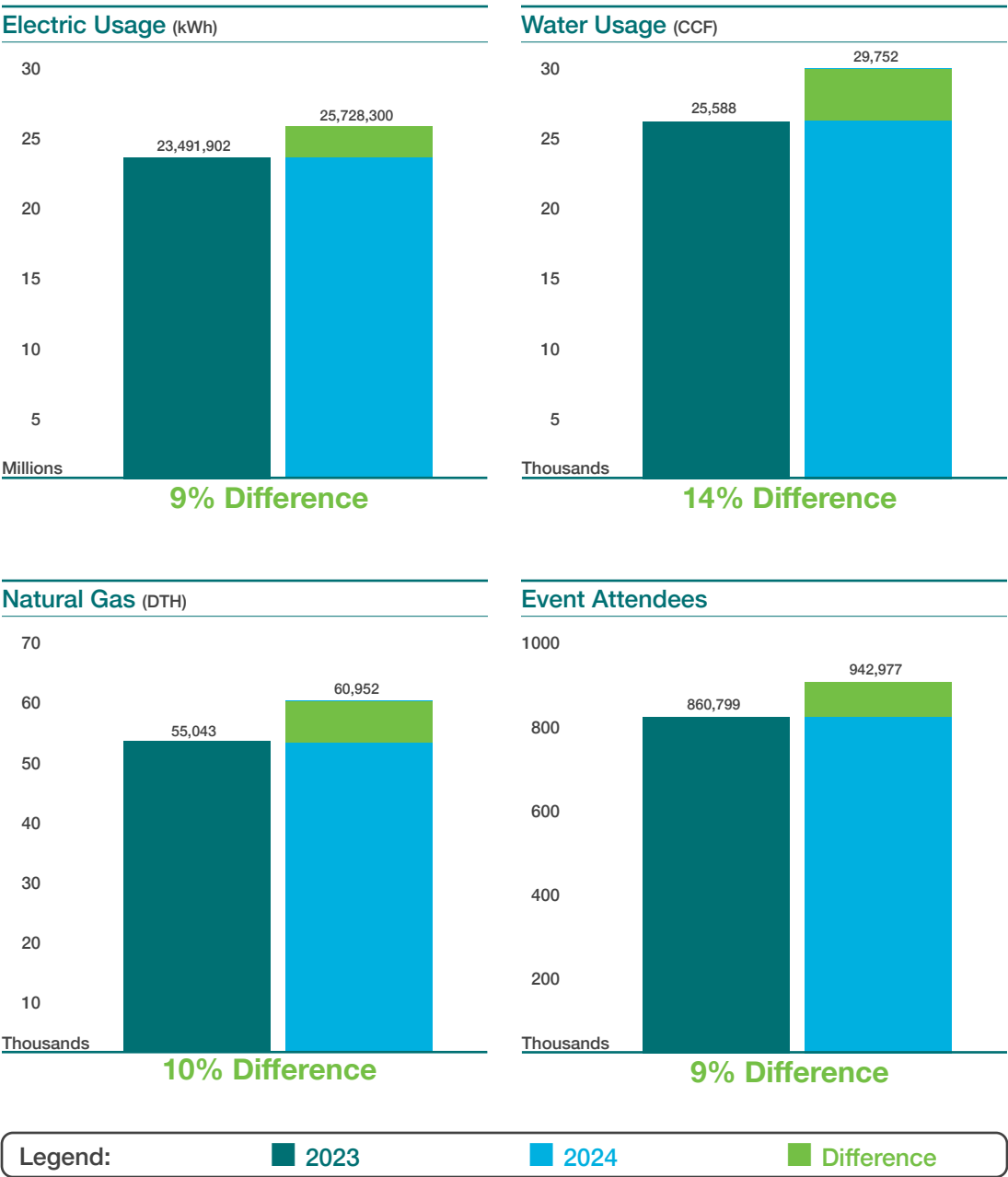




# Utilities Usage and Performance

2024 was a year of business evolution for the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The Center experienced a busier than usual summer calendar resulting in an event attendee growth of 9.5% and a correlated increase in utilities usage between 9% and 14%.

The Pennsylvania Convention Center remains committed to reducing the environmental impact of its operations and services by incorporating the use of equipment, technology, and products that are designed to provide healthy, clean, and efficient facility operations.



# Waste Diversion and Recycling Performance

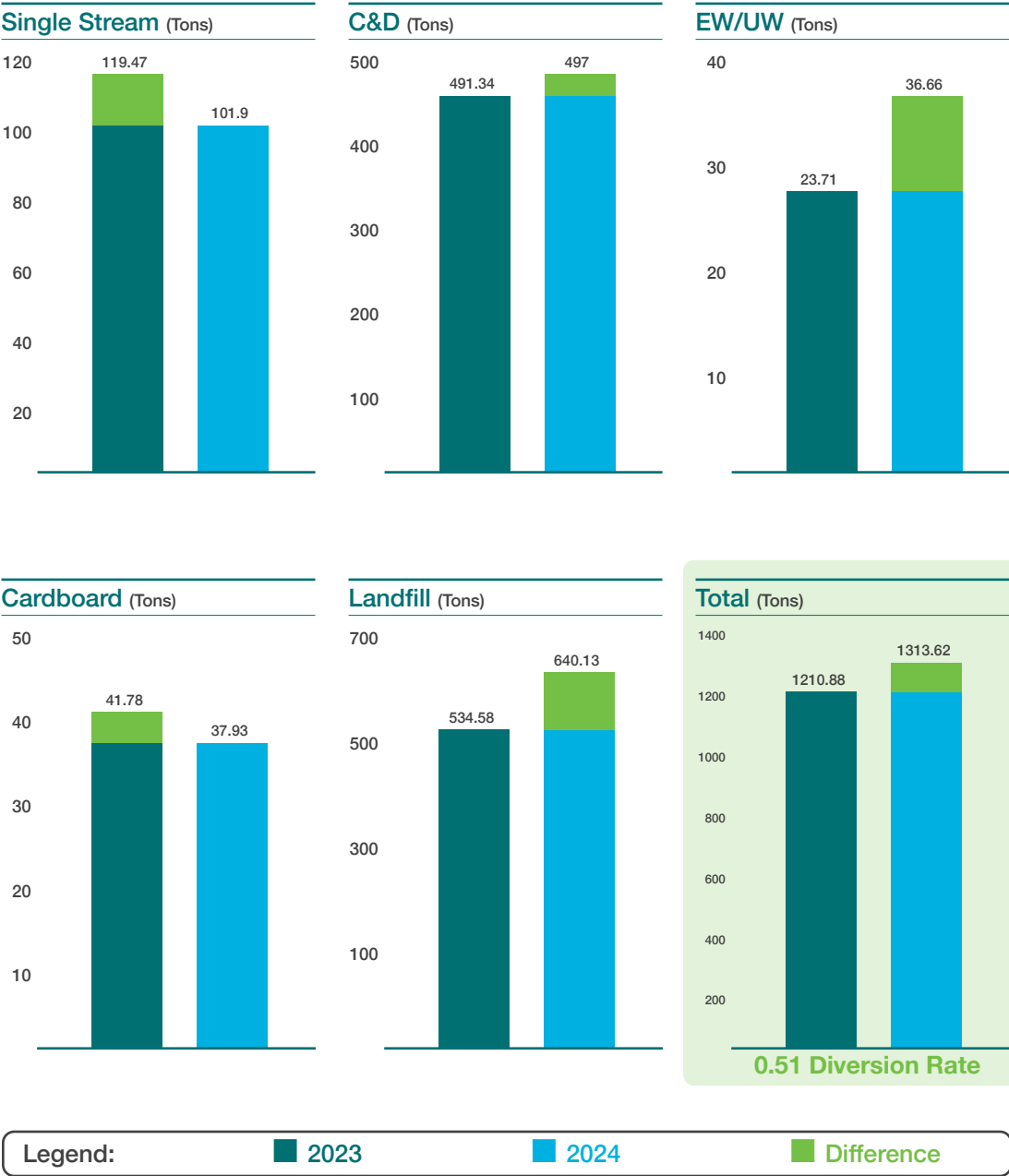
In 2024, the Pennsylvania Convention Center achieved a waste diversion rate of 51.3%, exceeding its annual goal. This achievement was due to the increased number of recycling projects undertaken by the facility. These projects included:

Three asset recycling projects for E-Waste and C&D recycling.

Construction project recycling from the Keystone Boardroom, and the 200 level and Ballroom AB level carpet replacement.

Retired assets from the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority (PCCA) including old furniture and various AV and IT electronics.

Retired assets from Aramark’s Ballroom AB kitchen.





# Team and Community Engagement

## Training and Development

### Annual Operations Training

On August 20, 2024, the Pennsylvania Convention Center held its Annual Operations Training with 170 operations and food and beverage employees and contractors. The agenda included topics on safety, sustainability, and hospitality.

New to the agenda this year was a seminar on elevator and escalator operations and safety. The session emphasized the importance of conservative scheduling for the escalator and elevator equipment as well as best practices to maximize energy efficiency and minimize run hours.

### Housekeeping Training

The Center's Housekeeping department facilitated a three-part training program for the department's new hires. The program was developed by the facility's Event Operations department in conjunction with the Human Resources department.

Four sessions were held during the year and included general onboarding and department specific training with the housekeeping foremen that covered topics such as company and department rules and expectations, cleaning product use, and sustainability. The program also included an interactive, hands-on training element, focused on restroom cleanliness, waste management and recycling, and equipment operations.



# Team and Community Engagement



## Educational Programming

As a leader in sustainability, the Pennsylvania Convention Center also facilitates sustainability tours, presentations, and workshops for industry partners, the local and regional business community, educational institutions and some of the events hosted at the facility, to showcase the building’s sustainability equipment and operations and share the team’s expertise in sustainable business practices.

## School Tours and Master Classes

Each year, the Pennsylvania Convention Center welcomes students from various high schools and universities, including Philadelphia Academies, Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) Philadelphia, Community College of Philadelphia, and Drexel University, for facility tours and the opportunity to lunch and learn from the Center’s leadership team.

In July 2024, the Center hosted campers from the ESF Dream Camp Foundation who participated in a building tour, led by Dominique Bonds, Director of Engagement, ASM Global. Following the tour, the students engaged in an insightful panel discussion with members of the Center’s team to learn more about the different careers in the hospitality industry and gain valuable advice as they continue their academic and career journeys.

## Sustainability Tours

During the year, sustainability tours were conducted for the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) 2024 International Conference and Expo and Expo Student Day, the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo representatives, and the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB) Customer Advisory Board.

## BOMA 2024 International Conference and Expo Student Day

On July 14, 2024, a group of students and facilities professionals from the BOMA 2024 International Conference and Expo participated in a building tour, led by the assistant facilities manager with ASM Global, Alisha Lane. The tour was part of the conference’s “Student Day”, during which high school and college students were able to experience first-hand all that commercial real estate can offer as a career. During the tour, the students learned about the Center’s rich history, as well as its award-winning sustainability initiatives and innovative facility operations technology solutions.





# Team and Community Engagement



## 2024 Greenbuild International Conference and Expo

As the largest gathering of green building professionals worldwide, Greenbuild is the cutting-edge community for the development of sustainability standards, policies, and partnerships.

With the goal of learning from the Center's industry-leading sustainability operations, on November 13, 2024, Greenbuild representatives participated in a back-of-house building tour, led by the director of facilities with ASM Global, Janet Mitrocsak. The tour provided a first-hand look at the waste diversion and composting operations for the Greenbuild Conference and Expo, as well as a demonstration led by engineering foreman, Carlos Rivera, of the functionality and operations of the Center's building automation system (BAS) for the West Central Plant HVAC equipment.

## Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB) Customer Advisory Board

From November 13 - 14, 2024, the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB) and the Pennsylvania Convention Center hosted a meeting and tour with the PHLCVB's Customer Advisory Board (CAB), whose members are active event planners and show organizers within the convention industry.

During the meeting, an informational and interactive presentation was given by Janet Mitrocsak, Director of Facilities, about the Center's robust sustainability program relative to current green event trends. The presentation reviewed the Center's mission statement and the various elements of the facility's sustainability program. The Center's Sustainable Event Checklist was also presented at the meeting and can be found in the [Plan of Operations](#).

CAB members also participated in a building tour to learn more about the facility's waste diversion and energy management operations.

## Doing Green Business with the Pennsylvania Convention Center

In April 2024, in commemoration of Earth Month, the Pennsylvania Convention Center hosted "Doing Green Business with the Pennsylvania Convention Center."

The event was the first sustainability focused workshop hosted by the Center under its "Doing Business" series and provided a platform for diverse business owners and leaders in the local and regional community to learn about the Center's commitment to sustainability and its green initiatives, as well as the importance of incorporating sustainability policies and practices into their business strategies.

At the event, MWDBE businesses that provide sustainable goods and services were showcased alongside the Center's advocacy and business partners such as Aramark, Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council (EMSDC), and Justice40.

The event included presentations by Steve Shepper, Vice President of Engineering, PCCA; Janet Mitrocsak, Director of Facilities, ASM Global; and Ama Erbyynn, Vice President, Strategic Sourcing and Procurement, ASM Global, as well as a case study presentation and Q&A session moderated by Lindsay Arell, Chief Sustainability Officer, ASM Global and featuring Don Woliski with Edifice Rx and Mimi Winkler with Converse Winkler Architecture.



# Team and Community Engagement



## Volunteerism

Throughout the year, the Center's Team PCC volunteers participate in several volunteer activities to give back to the local community.

### Methodist Services Heritage Farm

The Pennsylvania Convention Center partnered with Methodist Services to lend a helping hand on their Heritage Farm. Volunteers helped to plant fresh produce which the organization uses to create a sustainable, community-based food system for the families they serve.



### PCCA/ASM Global Backpack Drive

In August 2024, the Pennsylvania Convention Center Authority, in collaboration with ASM Global and Twelve Days of Christmas, Inc. Philadelphia Chapter, hosted a backpack drive to provide 150 backpacks with school supplies to students participating in programs hosted by the nonprofit Mighty Writers.

At the event, more than 20 volunteers packed the backpacks with supplies donated by the Center's staff, vendor partners, and labor union partners. The bags were distributed to the students, just in time for the start of the new school year.



# Team and Community Engagement

## Commitment to Accessibility

### Accessibility Audit

The Pennsylvania Convention Center is serious about its commitment to providing a welcoming experience for all. In 2024, as part of this commitment, the Center began the process for an accessibility audit of the facility and operations, with the goal of becoming certified in 2025. Additionally, the Center enhanced its ADA signage in the facility to improve the visibility of the building's accessible entrances.

### Parkinson Ready Training

In September 2024, the Center's staff together with hospitality industry partners, participated in the launch of the Make the City Parkinson Ready ("Parkinson Ready") program in Philadelphia, an initiative of the World Parkinson Coalition, The Parkinson Council, and the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau. The Parkinson Ready program aims to reduce stigma and enhance support for individuals living with Parkinson's disease by training employees in Philadelphia's safety, transportation, and service industries. The program is designed to prepare Philadelphia for the growing number of residents and tourists living with Parkinson's, ensure visitors to the city have a welcoming and safe experience while in Philadelphia, and educate public services and hospitality industry leaders to better understand the disease so that they would have more confidence supporting people with Parkinson's.

## Global Month of Giving

From November 15 to December 15, 2024, Legends and ASM Global venues worldwide partnered to celebrate Global Month of Giving. The Pennsylvania Convention Center participated in the program with the following initiatives:



### Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner Drive

The Center's staff, food and beverage partner, Aramark, and other partners, collected turkeys and other food items to support 25 families in the Philadelphia area who use the services of Methodist Services, Boys and Girls Clubs of Philadelphia, and Intercultural Family Services. Each family was provided with a grocery bag filled with items to make a delicious turkey dinner for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Intercultural Family Services Winter Wonderland

The Pennsylvania Convention Center partnered with local nonprofit organization, Intercultural Family Services, to host their Winter Wonderland holiday event.

The event brought over 250 Philadelphia families to the Center for an evening of giving, celebration, and empowerment. Prior to the event, the Center's staff collaborated with community partners, including Auto Dealers CARing for Kids, School District of Philadelphia, and Aramark to donate toys, coats and other winter clothing, and the meal for the event.

## Salvation Army of Greater Philadelphia's Eliza Shirley House

For the second year, a joint Pennsylvania Convention Center and Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau team decorated the Salvation Army of Greater Philadelphia's Eliza Shirley House for the holidays to help spread some holiday cheer to the home's residents.



# Team and Community Engagement

## Sustainability Communications and Public Relations

### Social Media

The Pennsylvania Convention Center has an active presence on several social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and X. In 2024, the posts that were shared on these platforms:

Highlighted the Center's participation in local sustainability initiatives such as the Lights Out Philly program.



Commemorated sustainability related observances such as Earth Month, Earth Day, and America Recycles Day.

Highlighted the Center's strong partnership with event customers to facilitate their sustainability programs and help them achieve their sustainability goals.

Highlighted the Center's achievements, certifications, expertise in hosting green events, and managing sustainable facility operations.



Highlighted the Center's social responsibility initiatives and its commitment to supporting and developing the local community.



## Press Releases

Press releases were distributed to local media and national trade publications announcing the Center's achievement of the [Events Industry Council \(EIC\) Sustainable Event Standards for venues recertification](#), the [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED®\) v4.1 Operations + Maintenance \(O+M\): Existing Buildings Silver certification](#), and the [hosting of the backpack drive](#). These announcements were shared in several publications and local news channels including:

- 6abc Action News
- Fox 29
- Facilities Online
- Trade Show News Network
- Event Industry News
- Travel and Tour World
- Celebrity Access



# 2025 Goals

Earn second-year recertification for LEED O+M Existing Buildings Silver.

Earn sixth-year reaccreditation for the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) Star Facility Accreditation

Execute network switch upgrade to replace our legacy switches with state-of-the-art Cisco equipment to achieve significant improvements in energy efficiency, environmental impact, and operational performance.

Earn third-year recertification for the EIC Sustainable Event Standards for venues.

Continue with Phase 1 Digital Signage project planning which would replace temporary signage and meeting room signage, and support multiple content that the show managers require.

Earn Sage Inclusion accessibility certification.





