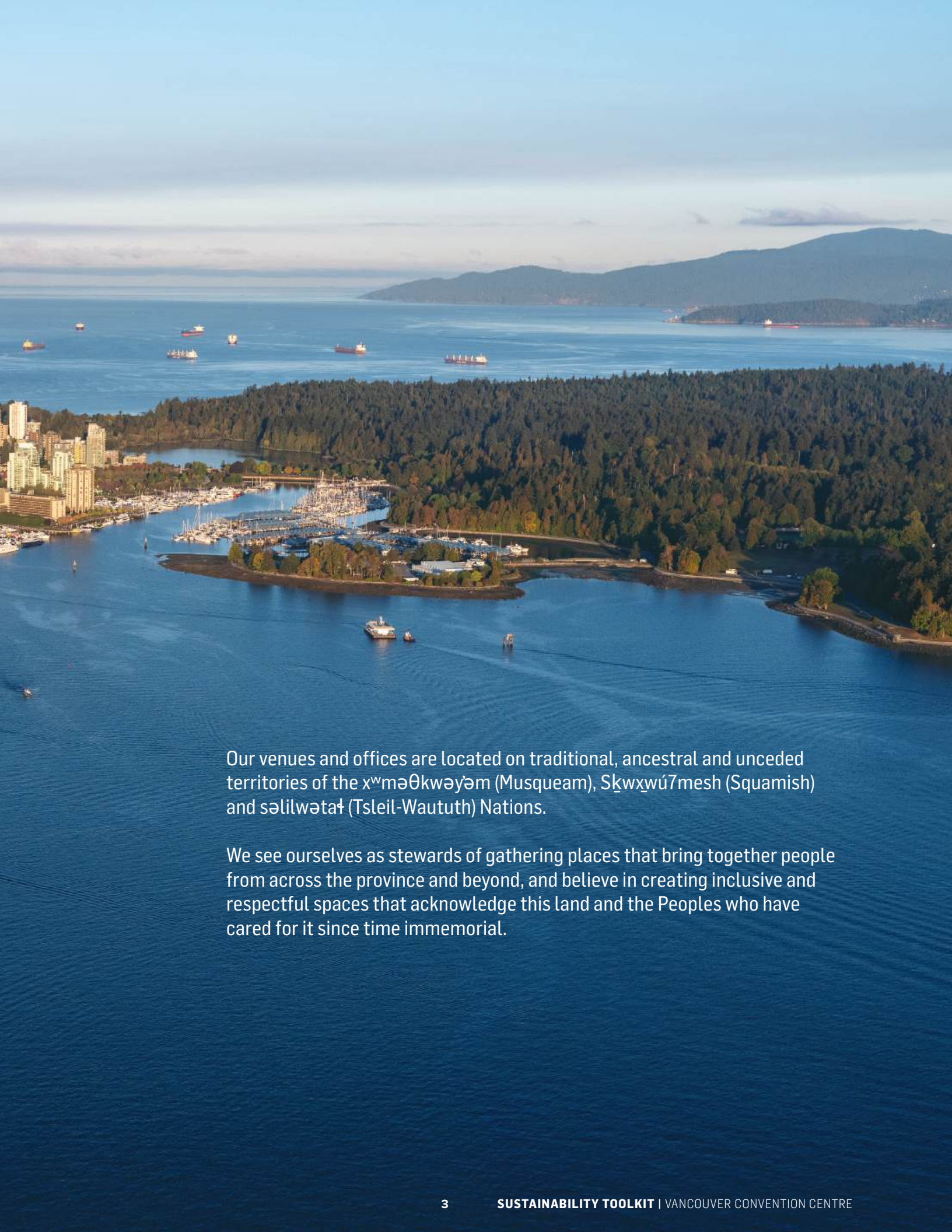


Sustainability Toolkit

Last updated: August 20, 2026





Our venues and offices are located on traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

We see ourselves as stewards of gathering places that bring together people from across the province and beyond, and believe in creating inclusive and respectful spaces that acknowledge this land and the Peoples who have cared for it since time immemorial.

Welcome

Host an unforgettable event in a place like no other. Our location pairs sweeping West Coast views with cutting-edge operations designed to support and sustain the natural world.

Did you know the average conference attendee generates about 176.67 kg of CO₂e per day? For a three-day, 1,000-person conference, that's about the same as driving a gasoline-powered vehicle more than 1.3 million miles*. But when you choose the Vancouver Convention Centre, you're already making a more sustainable choice.

Innovative architecture and advanced green technologies made us the world's first convention centre to achieve double LEED® Platinum certification. Our spaces and programs integrate seamlessly into your event, helping you showcase your commitment to sustainable operations while protecting your budget.

Here, your event doesn't just happen — it leads the way.

*Sources: Greenly; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

When you choose us, you gain:

- ✓ Enhanced brand reputation
- ✓ Access to credible, data-backed environmental impact information.
- ✓ Opportunity for a post-event sustainability report
- ✓ A reduced need for offsets or external solutions to meet your goals.
- ✓ A stronger point of difference in a competitive marketplace.



LEED® Platinum is the highest certification level in the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). A building with LEED® Platinum certification has met top-tier standards for sustainability and environmental performance across several categories.

See page 6 for building details.



Welcome to the World's Greenest City



PLAN YOUR CITY ADVENTURES!

Explore Vancouver with confidence. Destination Vancouver's trip-planning tools make it easy to discover local attractions, dining, and experiences, so you can build an unforgettable itinerary and make the most of the city.

ACCOMMODATIONS STEPS AWAY

Affordable options for students and delegates include the YWCA, an 8-minute walk from the Vancouver Convention Centre or 10 minutes by public transit, with rates starting at approximately \$85 CAD.



CONVENIENT RAPID TRANSIT

For under \$10 CAD, the Canada Line connects Vancouver International Airport to downtown in less than 30 minutes. Waterfront Station is just one block from the Vancouver Convention Centre.



BIKE OR SCOOT EVERYWHERE

Grab a bike, e-bike or e-scooter from your hotel, the city's bike share program, or a nearby rental shop, then take a spin around Stanley Park.



DOWNTOWN CORE

Vancouver is one of the world's most walkable cities. You can cross downtown in about 30 minutes, and most hotels are within a 15-minute walk of the Convention Centre.

At the Vancouver Convention Centre, attendees experience paperless check-in and are encouraged to use reusable water bottles. We do not use single-use plastics for food and beverage service, and we provide compostable and reusable to-go containers. Eco-friendly washrooms and abundant natural light support a comfortable, lower-impact event experience.

AT THE CENTRE

We provide thoughtfully curated meals made with locally sourced ingredients from farmers, fisheries, and other producers throughout British Columbia.

SIGHTSEEING

An efficient regional transit system, including SkyTrain, SeaBus and Aquabus, makes it easy for attendees to explore beyond downtown.





Green by Design

Bees: Our living roof advances urban sustainability by supporting biodiversity and providing habitat for solitary mason bees and European honeybees.



Wood: Local BC wood products are used throughout the facility.

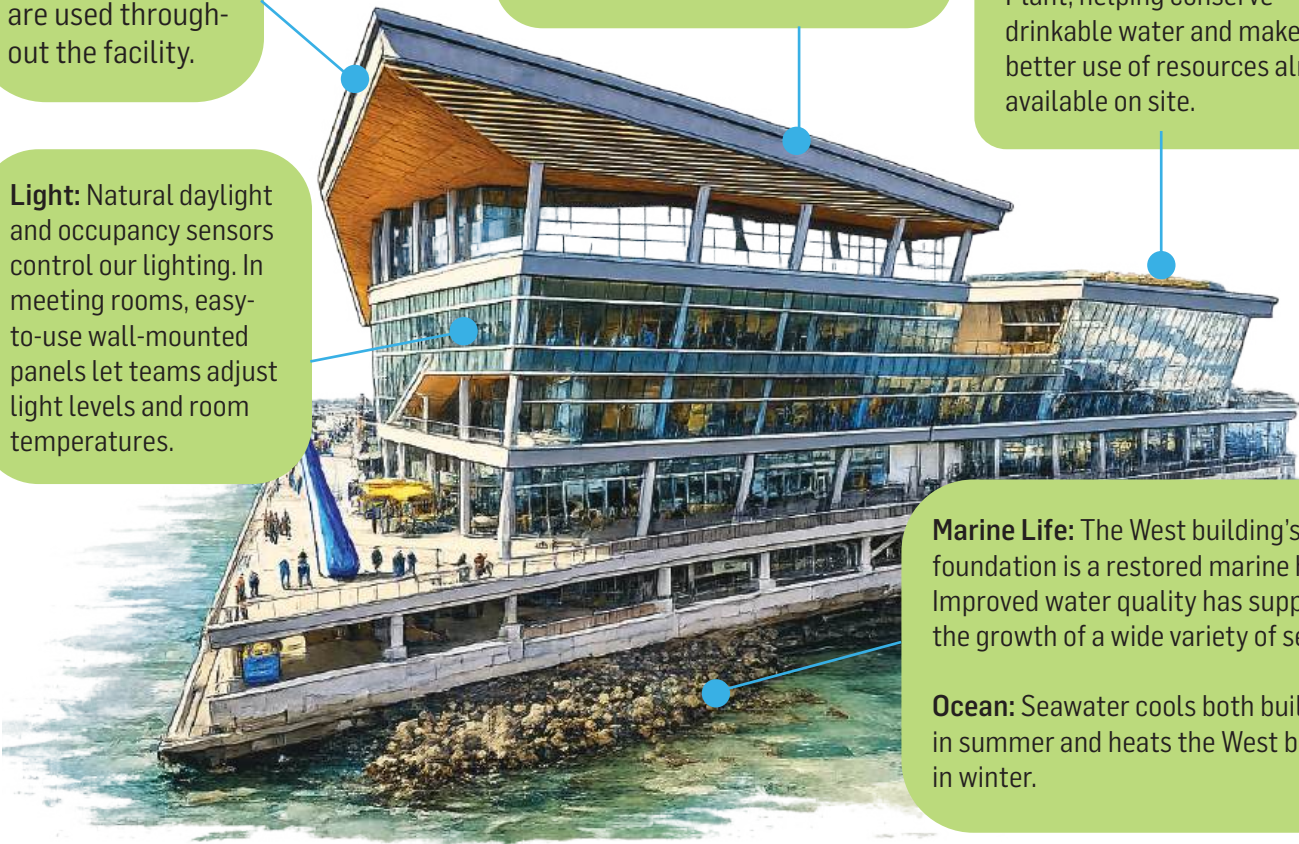
Light: Natural daylight and occupancy sensors control our lighting. In meeting rooms, easy-to-use wall-mounted panels let teams adjust light levels and room temperatures.

Living Green: The West building's six-acre living roof is the largest in Canada and the largest non-industrial living roof in North America. Thousands of native plants and grasses help it act as a natural insulator, reducing heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter. This lowers the energy needed for air conditioning by 25 percent.

Water Recycling: Our sophisticated blackwater treatment plant provides toilet-flushing water and rooftop irrigation during warmer weather. We have reduced potable water use by 35 percent. Our facility's washrooms use non-potable water supplied by our on-site Biological Water Treatment Plant, helping conserve drinkable water and make better use of resources already available on site.

Marine Life: The West building's foundation is a restored marine habitat. Improved water quality has supported the growth of a wide variety of sea life.

Ocean: Seawater cools both buildings in summer and heats the West building in winter.



Your Event Experience

Unique, memorable guest experiences with potential for exciting marine wildlife sightings.

Opportunities for nearby tours and programming.

Lower emissions, associated with venue energy use, decrease your Scope 3 emissions.

Alignment with your sustainability and procurement goals

A compelling story for attendees and sponsors in a venue dedicated to preserving the natural beauty around them.



Sustainable Event Checklist

Partner with us to host your next event at the Vancouver Convention Centre, where you can deliver memorable, sustainable experiences within your budget. Use our event checklist to set clear goals and make every detail count.

We're here to help. With our support, you can create memorable experiences that make a positive impact. Whether you need creative eco-ideas, practical advice to reduce onsite waste, or hands-on planning support, our on-staff sustainability experts can provide complimentary consultations upon request. Highlights of how we can support you are outlined to the right.



Take the Next Step Toward a More Sustainable Event

We can provide a personalized energy and sustainability report that delivers tangible results to share and celebrate with your organization.

We offer complimentary sustainability advisory services:

- ☐ Defining sustainability goals for the event (i.e.: minimizing waste, plastic free etc.)
- ☐ Setting KPIs for your event (% waste diversion)
- ☐ Low-emissions menu options including plant-based options.
- ☐ Donating leftover items and move in and move out options.
- ☐ Minimizing on-site waste including working with exhibitors and sponsors which are often a significant source of waste at the end of an event.
- ☐ Provide ideas to minimize single-use giveaways such as services such as headshots for attendees or one giveaway draw as opposed to many small items.
- ☐ Recommending digital lead generation providers to minimize paper handouts and maximize exhibitor ROI.
- ☐ Understanding BC waste regulations to aid in your planning, for example Vancouver enforces ongoing bans and regulations on single-use plastics and foams.
- ☐ Using digital signage instead of printed throughout the venue.



Digital Signage

When information is bright, timely, and easy to find, attendees notice.

Our digital screens keep attendees informed with current schedules, wayfinding, sponsor messages, and brand content in high-traffic areas throughout the venue.

Built-in and portable digital signs let you share polished, timely updates without relying on printed materials. With our intuitive content management system, your team can quickly display the information that matters most, from agenda changes to sponsor highlights.

Going digital helps reduce waste, eliminate print costs, and create new ways to engage attendees while giving sponsors greater visibility. Updates can be made in real time, so your message stays fresh, relevant, and hard to miss.



Welcome to the
BCTECH Summit



Food Waste Reduction Program

Food waste costs money and harms the environment. It's also preventable. Over 46 percent of all food in Canada is wasted every year; 41.7 percent of this is avoidable, with a value of \$58 billion.



Avoidable food waste also contributes approximately 25.7 million metric tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually, equivalent to 253,000 flights from Toronto to Vancouver.

We raise the bar for sustainability through thoughtful choices. Our kitchen focuses on fresh, local, and seasonal ingredients, reducing our energy footprint by sourcing close to home. Instead of prepackaged or canned goods, we serve meals with reusable cutlery, table and glassware, and cloth napkins. Most condiments are offered in bulk or reusable containers, making waste reduction easier for everyone.

Our Catering Managers can help you plan meals and reduce food waste.

Considerations:

- ✓ Customizing course selection for plated meals
- ✓ Providing previous event consumption data; and
- ✓ Manage food quantities by planning function times and menu selections together.

Learn more about our food waste reduction program:





Waste Management

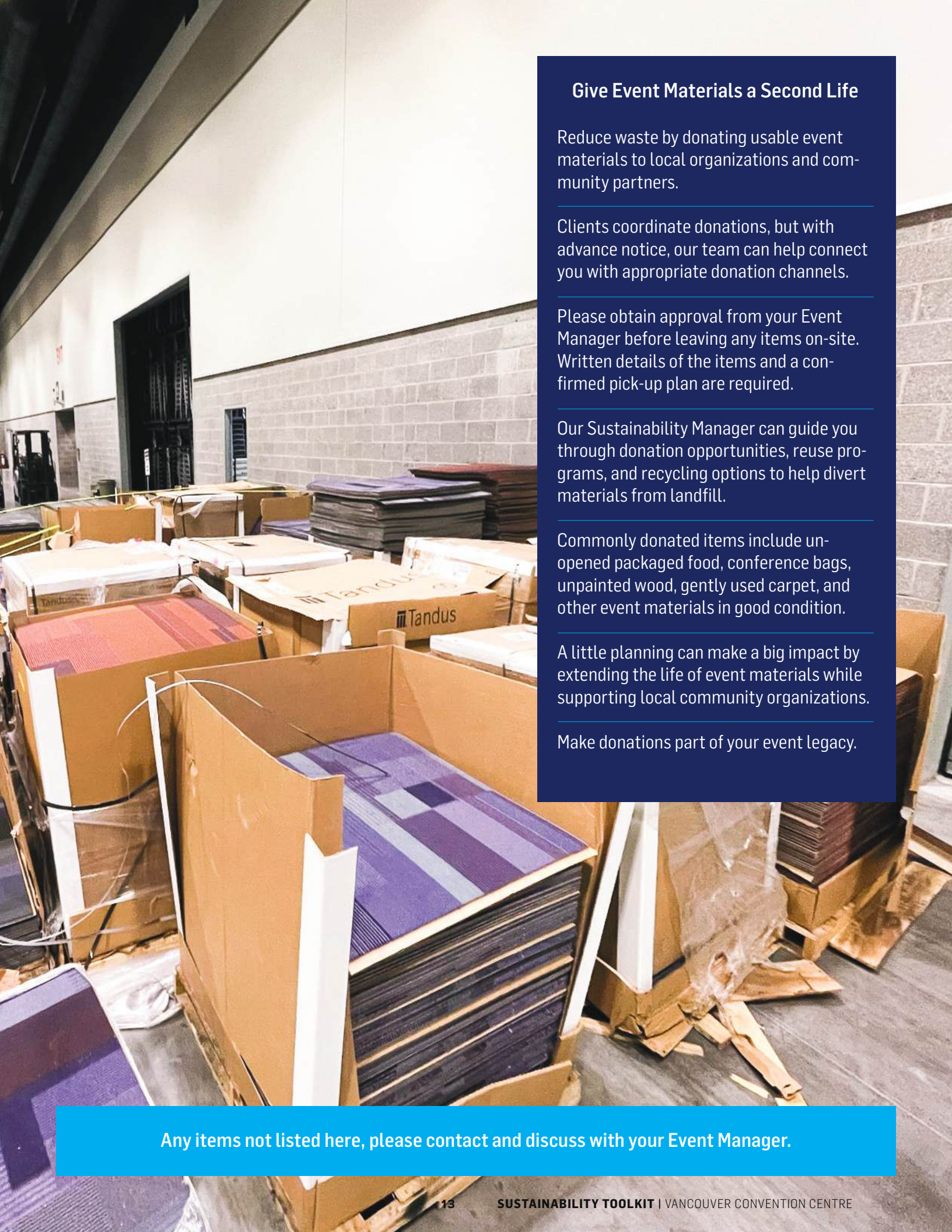
We help you cut waste and lower costs through comprehensive recycling, composting, and material reuse initiatives. By diverting over 78 percent of waste from landfills, we significantly reduce our environmental impact.

We separate compostable products at the source and send them to a local facility that uses windrow composting. In 12 to 18 months, these materials become compost for farms or resale, helping close the loop on sustainability.

We actively track recycling volumes and offer guidance for measuring recycling at your events. Vancouver's first audited zero-waste event was hosted at our convention centre, setting a standard for sustainable event management.

These guidelines can help reduce your event's environmental impact and budget.

The following items are prohibited in the facility:	The following items are permitted in the facility, but must be removed by the end of the event:	The following items can be recycled:
Hazardous substances, or items containing hazardous substances, including PCBs, asbestos and bio-hazardous waste	- Banners and/or tablecloths (vinyl) - Carpet, carpet scraps or carpet padding - Items that cannot be donated such as plaques or trophies - Any signage that cannot be recycled or reused, including decals or window clings - Foam core signage - Helium balloons - Construction debris (lumber, plywood, particle board, metal equipment and scraps, concrete, brick, porcelain, pavers, asphalt, PVC pipe) The Convention Centre can provide open bins for exhibitors, decorators and attendees at a cost. Please discuss this option with your Event Manager.	- Styrofoam (pellets and white packaging only)** - Cardboard boxes and signs** - Food scraps - Glass bottles and jars - Kitchen grease - Paper and newsprint - Wood (uncoated, untreated)** - Plastic film and shrink wrap - Plastic containers - Metal and aluminum containers - Electronics, furniture or equipment - Pallets, plants, trees and yard debris ** For very large quantities, pre-approval is required and additional fees may apply (fee to be quoted based on size and amount of waste).



Give Event Materials a Second Life

Reduce waste by donating usable event materials to local organizations and community partners.

Clients coordinate donations, but with advance notice, our team can help connect you with appropriate donation channels.

Please obtain approval from your Event Manager before leaving any items on-site. Written details of the items and a confirmed pick-up plan are required.

Our Sustainability Manager can guide you through donation opportunities, reuse programs, and recycling options to help divert materials from landfill.

Commonly donated items include unopened packaged food, conference bags, unpainted wood, gently used carpet, and other event materials in good condition.

A little planning can make a big impact by extending the life of event materials while supporting local community organizations.

Make donations part of your event legacy.

Any items not listed here, please contact and discuss with your Event Manager.



Community Partners

The Vancouver Convention Centre acts as a steward for the environment and a leader in the local community. We create opportunities for staff involvement, educate stakeholders, and participate in programs that support the City of Vancouver's sustainability goals.



Food Donations & Waste Reduction

Through partnerships with local charities, including Union Gospel Mission, Second Harvest, and Vancouver Food Runners, nutritious, high-quality leftover meals are donated. Since December 2022, the Vancouver Convention Centre has donated over 24,000 meals to non-profits. By addressing food insecurity and reducing waste, we reinforce our role as both a sustainable venue and a socially responsible community member.



We are proud to have a current 78 percent diversion rate and continue to explore ways to move toward zero waste by partnering with specialized waste management professionals at Growing City. They separate waste into the appropriate streams, ensuring recyclables, organics, and landfill-bound materials are properly sorted. This process maximizes diversion rates and helps minimize our environmental footprint.





Ready to host a more sustainable event?

Connect with our team to explore practical ways to reduce impact, enhance the attendee experience, and make your next event stand out at the Vancouver Convention Centre.

Contact: info@vancouverconventioncentre.com



Learn more about sustainability at the
Vancouver Convention Centre



VANCOUVER
CONVENTION
CENTRE

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