

# The Banff Centre respecting our environment



## let our values inspire you

Since it was founded in 1933, The Banff Centre has placed great value on its location within the spectacular mountain environment of Banff National Park. The Centre is committed to environmental leadership and performance in all its operations and has developed and implemented a wide range of environmental initiatives. Located within a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Centre supports education and environmental awareness for all staff, program participants, and guests.

The Centre's environmental policy states:

The Banff Centre shall be a leader in environmental management practices by ensuring all of our programs, activities and operations have a minimal environmental impact and by seeking continuous improvement in our environmental management efforts, all with the goal of reducing the Centre's ecological footprint, emission of greenhouse gases and overall environmental impact.

*"The Banff Centre offers transformational experiences that bring people to a point where they glimpse over their personal horizon. This inner journey takes place in a real, physical place. It takes place in rooms and studios, in buildings and along pathways.*

*Those of us privileged to work here are accountable to care for this place. We need to ensure future experiences are no less than what they are today. It has been said that we did not inherit this land from our forefathers; we hold it in trust for our grandchildren.*

*Environmental stewardship at the Centre is about fulfilling that trust while enabling all of today's programs, events, conferences, and activities to thrive to their fullest potential. It is an inspiration to see the day-to-day actions taken by our staff that demonstrate their passion and commitment to the Centre's future and to the mountain environment that surrounds us."*

**Norbert Meier**  
Environmental Officer  
The Banff Centre

## hug our trees

Our inspirational mountain setting is a fundamental element of The Banff Centre experience; stimulating participants to connect with, and reflect upon, the physical environment. The Centre has adopted practices to help protect the integrity and bio-diversity of our natural environment as well as the processes that sustain it.

### Some of our initiatives include:

- No pesticides are used in grounds maintenance.
- No salt is used on roadways.
- Environment friendly paint stripper and stain is used to re-finish building exteriors.
- Non-native vegetation is removed from the grounds by hand every spring.
- Biodegradable, environment-friendly cleaning products are used for nearly all operations.

## drink our water

Located in Banff National Park along the Bow River, the Centre is keenly aware of the importance of conserving natural resources. Throughout the organization, changes have been made and systems have been put in place to reduce the Centre's use of electricity, water, and fuel.

### Some of our initiatives include:

- Building-specific energy management plans have been implemented to conserve water, gas, and electricity.
- Tap water versus bottled water is encouraged for programs and events.
- Ultra low flush toilets and high-efficiency front load washers have been installed.
- Guests are encouraged to re-use bed linens and towels.
- Bio-diesel is being used to run a diesel-fueled bobcat and two tractors.
- 95 per cent of the campus has been retrofitted to high-efficiency lighting.



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inspiring creativity

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## take responsibility

The Banff Centre provides programs, accommodation, and/or food services to over 25,000 participants and 50,000 audience members a year. The Centre has identified numerous opportunities where waste can be reduced or avoided, and works actively to reduce the amount of material entering the waste stream and going to landfills.

### Some of our initiatives include:

- Waste audits are performed annually.
- Food products are purchased in bulk to avoid waste from individual packaging.
- All paper distributed for internal printing is 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper.
- A comprehensive recycling program is in place, including an on-site collection depot.
- Alternate uses are found for products when they become worn-out.

## reduce our footprints

Respect for and preservation of the environment is an integral component of the Centre's plans for redevelopment. The Banff Centre Revitalization project will enhance creative, educational, and cultural programs, while having "no net negative" environmental impact – the cumulative effect of our redevelopment is an overall reduction in the Centre's environmental impact. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification will be sought for all new buildings.

### Benefits from planned projects will include:

- Environmental screening for all new building and redevelopment sites.
- Integration with our National Park and World Heritage Site setting.
- Enhanced wildlife movement.
- Reduced areas of roads and paving.
- Increased restoration and preservation of montane landscaping.
- Implementation of a storm water management plan.
- Reduction of light pollution and improved energy efficiency.

## tell us your dreams

The Banff Centre looks forward to assisting you to plan your program, conference, and/or meeting to fit your personal and organizational environmental values.

Learn more about the Centre's Environmental Management System by visiting our website at: [www.banffcentre.ca/environment](http://www.banffcentre.ca/environment)

### Or contact:

Norbert Meier, Environmental Officer  
Phone: 403.762.6254  
E-mail: [norbert\\_meier@banffcentre.ca](mailto:norbert_meier@banffcentre.ca)

### For program, conference, and/or meeting information contact the main switchboard

Phone: 403.762.6100  
E-mail: [communications@banffcentre.ca](mailto:communications@banffcentre.ca)

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