



## Duluth Entertainment Convention Center

### *Environmental Stewardship through Sustainable Practices*

The Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) serves as a venue for a wide range of special events, hosting thousands of guests annually. As part of its



commitment to environmental stewardship, staff and management created an environmental mission statement ([www.decc.org](http://www.decc.org)). Over the last three years, the DECC has worked to reduce waste, recover food when possible, increase energy conservation,

improve recycling and reuse opportunities, and change purchasing practices.

**Energy conservation.** To save energy, the DECC converted to fluorescent lighting, established a lights-out policy, converted to steam heating which uses excess steam from the Duluth Steam Plant, and modified its grounds-keeping practices to reduce mowing and watering.

**Environmentally preferable purchasing.** The DECC has changed its maintenance and purchasing area. All new products and practices are now evaluated for environmental impact. Products that reduce or eliminate toxic chemicals, can be recycled or reused, or purchased in bulk are favored over conventional items.

**Waste reduction.** Even leftover material from events is being captured and reused. The DECC staff have made the extra effort to create an internal materials exchange, which allows employees to post and exchange items that have been abandoned from events. One

example of staff embracing the reduce/reuse/recycle mantra is that over 275 boxboard beer containers were saved from one event. Catering staff reused these boxes as compostable utensil dispensers to feed thousands of people at the spaghetti dinner catered and hosted by the DECC each year before Grandma's Marathon. The boxes were saved and will be used again this year.

**Green building.** The DECC will be adding on a new hockey arena, and plans on making the arena the first LEED certified hockey rink in the nation.

By diverting close to 242,000 pounds of food from the landfill, DECC's efforts have saved over \$17,500 and 635 cubic yards of landfill space.



**DECC**  
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