

# COSLA Conference Centre Green Credentials



COSLA cares about playing its part in a sustainable society and promotes civic engagement. This document notes the steps we have taken to try and minimise the environmental impacts of our Conference Centre. In addition to the work we are already doing, noted below, we are also working towards achieving Green Tourism's 'Green Meetings' accreditation for our venue.



## Catering

We provide dairy free and vegan alternatives for delegates at no extra cost, and our Chef's Choice menus for lunchtime catering are 50% vegetarian options by default.

Our sandwich supplier is committed to local employment and procurement. They recycle their bread ends into animal feed for a local farm and remanufacture their cardboard boxes for packaging. They also earned an Environmental and Sustainability Award in 2022.



## Energy

We use the Scottish Government Energy contract, with electricity being supplied by EDF, who use a significant amount of nuclear energy. Gas is supplied by Total Energies. COSLA also pay approximately £1.5k per annum in Climate Change levy on electricity, and approximately £1k on gas.

In certain areas of the Conference Centre, we use motion sensors for our lighting to save energy.



## Hybrid Meetings

We have invested in upgrading our hybrid offering in our Caledonian Suite, with new microphones and voice lift technology. We now offer a built-in hybrid function in four of our conference suites, plus a portable videoconferencing unit. This is ideal for attendees joining remotely to reduce the carbon footprint of an event.



## Recycling

We recycle food waste, glass, and plastic to limit as much waste going to landfill as possible. We work with Biffa on our recycling, who have their own sustainability strategy and green targets that they meet.



## Single-Use Plastic

In an effort to reduce the amount of single-use plastic used in the Conference Centre, water we provide for events is served in glass bottles for still and sparkling water, which are sanitised and reused, with water from our own water supply. Glasses and ceramic mugs are provided for refreshments, and ceramic crockery with metal cutlery for catering.

We are further limiting our single-use plastic by getting rid of plastic cups at our water machines, and encouraging people to use their glasses, or their own refillable water bottles.



## Stationery

We provide delegate stationery for events who request it, which includes a notepad and pen. These are all reused, when possible, with delegates taking any used pages away with them, otherwise being recycled by our staff. Our COSLA pens are also 100% recyclable.



## Transport

The Conference Centre is serviced by a number of public transport options: We are a short walk away from Haymarket Train Station as well as the Haymarket Edinburgh Trams stop and a number of Lothian Buses bus stops. Display boards located on both floors display live departure times for all three public transport options.

We also have a bike rack in our car park and do not offer parking to event delegates (other than blue badge holders) to encourage attendees to choose a greener method of transport to get to our venue and discourage staff from driving to work where possible. We also have Electric Vehicle charging points in our car park for staff who do drive in.