

THE EMERALD CITY'S BELL HARBOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER GOES GREEN

Seattle's premier waterfront venue determines carbon footprint to become a more eco-friendly event destination and receives international recognition for sustainability practices

SEATTLE (January 6, 2010) – Bell Harbor International Conference Center has completed a one-year research study to calculate its carbon footprint, in an effort to become a more eco-friendly meeting and event destination. As a result, Bell Harbor is better prepared to work with groups to identify ways to reduce an event's carbon footprint and ultimately lessen its impact on the environment.

"As Seattle's premier conference center, we are happy to be leading the charge in making greener meetings available to our guests," said Greg Werry, general manager of Bell Harbor International Conference Center. "Our waterfront location on beautiful Puget Sound is a constant reminder that we need to do our part for the region and the world."

"Bell Harbor International Conference Center has been a significant partner in helping the Port of Seattle to reduce the carbon footprint at Pier 66," said Dennis Scott, Port of Seattle facilities maintenance manager and supporter of the Bell Harbor carbon footprint research study. "The Bell Harbor team has reduced the venue's waste stream through increased food and material recycling and has been a major contributor in energy conservation efforts by reducing electricity, steam and water consumption."

Bell Harbor worked with a local environmental consultancy to determine its carbon footprint, which was determined by the total output of greenhouse gas created through energy use, transportation and waste production. Upon completion of the study, Bell Harbor's meeting and event planners have become educated on ways to reduce an event's carbon footprint by encouraging groups to:

- Utilize water stations rather than bottled water
- Take notes on white boards instead of paper flip-charts
- Limit use of notepads
- Consider the use of reusable nametags, as well as electric, online files rather than printed materials
- Encourage carpooling among event or meeting attendees

In December 2009, The International Association of Conference Centers (IACC) awarded Bell Harbor with Gold Tier status for the conference center's commitment to the IACC Code of Sustainability, an extensive outline of the most up-to-date environmental practices relating to education and

awareness, water and energy conservation, waste management, air quality and more. Bell Harbor, one of just two Washington state properties on the Gold Tier, qualifies for this distinction based on its commitment to the sustainability initiatives outlined in the code.

Bell Harbor eliminates tons of food waste each day by donating leftover food to local food banks, maintaining a composting program and recycling kitchen grease into bio-fuel that is used to power Port of Seattle vehicles. All food and beverages are served using reusable flatware, dishes, napkins and cups. In addition, the conference center serves fair trade coffee and uses locally grown food whenever possible. Its current recycling rate is 70 percent, well above the City of Seattle's goal of 60 percent.

In April 2008, the venue earned a four-star rating from EnviroStars, a nationally recognized program that certifies businesses that reduce, recycle and properly manage hazardous waste.

For more information about planning an event at Bell Harbor call 888-772-4422 or visit www.bellharbor.com.

Bell Harbor International Conference Center

Bell Harbor International Conference Center is Seattle's premier waterfront conference venue, with 18 meeting rooms totaling 98,387 square feet and capacity for up to 6,000 guests. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology and amenities, this quintessential Seattle meeting venue provides the finest service and cuisine. Bell Harbor International Conference Center is owned by The Port of Seattle and managed and operated by Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality, Inc. To learn more, visit www.bellharbor.com.

About Columbia Hospitality

Columbia Hospitality, Inc. (Columbia), a Seattle-based hospitality management and consulting firm specializing in luxury hotel and resort management, was founded in 1995 by John Oppenheimer. Columbia's growing portfolio of premier properties, including boutique hotels, award-winning resorts, mixed-use hotel developments, event venues and conference centers, offer world-class service in exquisite settings. Columbia creates memorable experiences for guests and employees while achieving phenomenal results for owners. The company's continued success has led to an international expansion of the consulting division and more than 80 hospitality development projects in the western United States, Canada, Florida, Portugal and the United Kingdom. For more information about Columbia and a full list of properties visit www.columbiahospitality.com.

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