



MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

## Acting on Environmental Sustainability Recommendations

Meeting Professionals International (MPI) recognizes the immense potential impact our industry and organization has on our communities. MPI has made a deliberate commitment to evolve meetings and events in order to build environmental and social sustainability in the communities in which we do business and to elevate the conversation about sustainability within our membership. We will work to reduce our impact, mitigate what we cannot reduce, measure and report our results to help our community be successful.

At the World Education Congress in Montreal in August 2007, and at the Professional Education Conference in Houston in February 2008, we partnered with Meeting Strategies Worldwide, a leader in environmentally sustainable meetings, to help us measure our footprint and recommend solutions to improve our performance going forward.

Recommendations to improve sustainability at our conferences included:

- Define environmental criteria in:
  - Destination Requests for Proposal for future conferences
  - Hotel contracts
  - Meeting venue contracts
  - Catering contracts
  - Decorator contracts
- Produce environmentally sustainable recommendations for exhibitors
- Create an MPI carbon offset program for future events

To address these recommendations, MPI is taking the following steps:

- In the fall of 2007, we added environmental sustainability clauses for venue and hotel contracts to help us create sustainable events, measure the impact, and continue to report our improvements. Although contracts had been confirmed until 2010, we have gone back to these properties and re-negotiated the contracts to include this type of clause. This required 11 addendums in Vancouver and 2 in Las Vegas. We were able to add clauses to our Salt Lake City contracts as we were in the process of negotiating them.
- Although our destination contracts have been confirmed until 2010, we will include environmentally sustainable clauses in future destination requests for proposal, including requests for information regarding public transportation options and environmentally sustainable venues, hotels and other suppliers.
- In the fall of 2007, we added environmentally sustainable clauses to include in our catering and decorator contracts which will include expected practices and measurements.
- We are assessing a MPI carbon offset project for the World Education Congress (WEC) in Las Vegas.
- We have held a staff training and brainstorm session on how to make our events more environmentally sustainable.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS FOR FUTURE EVENTS**



---

MEETING PROFESSIONALS INTERNATIONAL

In preparation for WEC, MPI strives to meet these recommendations and exceed them through the following actions:

- Create objectives for environmentally sustainable actions for all upcoming conferences in order to measure our success and strive for continuous improvement
- Hold information sessions/webinars for all of our suppliers and partners in advance of the event to educate them on MPI's sustainability objectives and their contribution for success
- Create organization-wide social sustainability objectives that fit our vision and mission, and use our events to help us achieve those goals
- Educate and engage our community through the continued provision of sustainability reports, online communities and educational opportunities both online and at our events to elevate the conversation around sustainability
- Influence the community and the supply chain to become more aware of sustainability, how it impacts our industry and the industries to which our members belong, and therefore catalyze a change in behaviour

Sustainability is a journey. MPI will strive to act, educate and report to meet our sustainability goals and those of the UN Global Compact on Corporate Social Responsibility, of which MPI is proud to be a signatory.