



2024-2025

ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY SUMMARY

LEADERSHIP IN SUSTAINABILITY



the legendary
ROY WILKINS™
AUDITORIUM

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OUR APPROACH & AREAS OF FOCUS

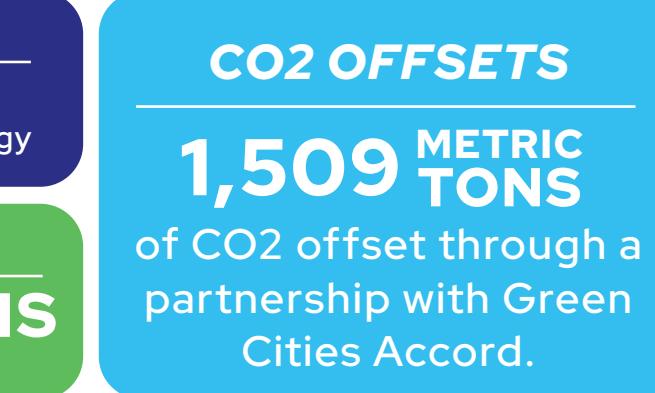
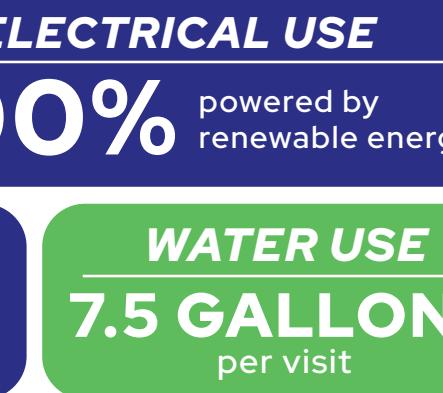
Our organization is known for creating the best experiences imaginable and that includes providing a setting that is a model of sustainable practices. Since 2009, we have prioritized sustainable operations for the venues we manage.

Grand Casino Arena, Saint Paul RiverCentre, Roy Wilkins Auditorium, 317 on Rice Park, and TRIA Rink

What started with waste reduction and recycling has grown into a comprehensive program covering energy efficiency, renewable energy, green purchasing, sustainable travel and multiple third-party certifications.

We recognize that sustainability today includes important social factors such as equality, health, and education. To align with these initiatives, we have adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to guide our efforts. These 17 goals reflect a comprehensive approach to sustainability for both people and the planet.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



SUMMARY

Our Sustainability Summary highlights how Xcel Energy Center, which became Grand Casino Arena in September 2025, Saint Paul RiverCentre, Roy Wilkins Auditorium and the Minnesota Wild are dedicated to environmental and social responsibility. We're proud to lead the way in creating greener venues and building stronger communities through programs that support inclusion, health, and well-being.

GROWING LOCAL IMPACT, ONE TRIP AT A TIME

With professional sports, being on the road is inevitable. In partnership with Green Cities Accord, we're turning travel into trees throughout the Twin Cities. The Minnesota Wild offset more than 1,300 metric tons of CO₂, based on its 2024-2025 air travel, by purchasing carbon offsets from Green Cities Accord. Revenue generated by the sale of offsets is reinvested into future tree planting and maintenance in the urban core. This initiative inspired Saint Paul RiverCentre to create Trees for Travel, a program that allows events to offset their attendees' travel emissions.

POWERING A GREENER GAME

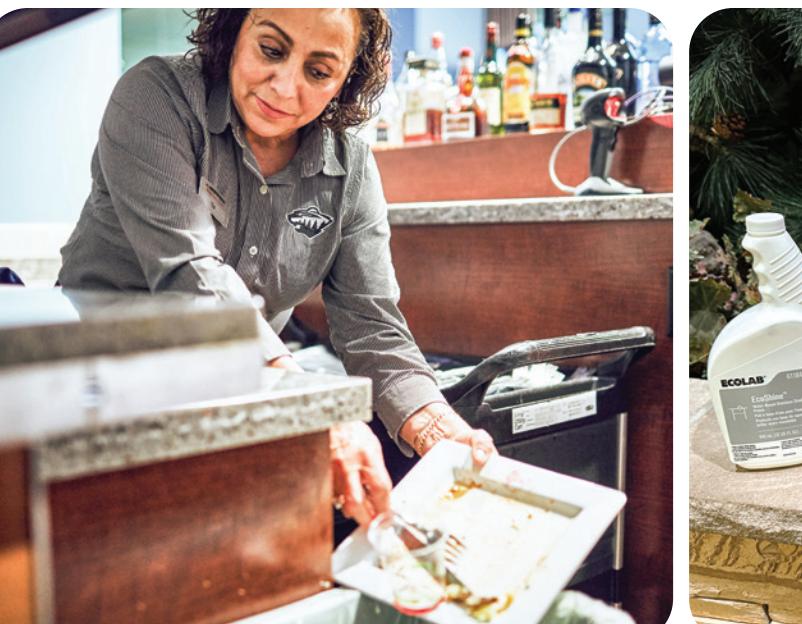
At Grand Casino Arena, our new all-electric ice resurfacers are redefining what it means to make great ice sustainable. Outfitted with the advanced Fast Ice system, these machines use computer-controlled precision to apply just the right amount of water, creating a smoother, denser sheet of ice while conserving resources. The system ensures consistency across every pass, eliminating guesswork and reducing waste. By pairing cutting-edge efficiency with clean energy, we're keeping the ice fast, the arena green, and the game better for everyone.

LEADING THE CHARGE IN SUSTAINABLE SPORTS OPERATIONS

In 2023, Grand Casino Arena and the Minnesota Wild joined the Green Operations & Advanced Leadership (GOAL) coalition, aligning with top sports venues committed to advancing sustainability.

In 2024, the arena earned 21 GOAL Medals for excellence in waste collection, green cleaning, renewable energy, and fan engagement. The Green Sports Alliance recognized the arena as a leader in Sustainability for its waste diversion and clean energy initiatives.

In 2025, the arena's efforts reached new heights with 26 GOAL Medals and recognition as a GOAL Sustainability Coteener, highlighted by its purchasing policy that embeds sustainability into every operational decision. Together, Grand Casino Arena and the Minnesota Wild continue to prove that environmental leadership is central to performance, partnership, and fan pride.



WASTE & PURCHASING

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

 We recycled:
• 1,873 lbs. of light bulbs
• 116 tons of cardboard
• 117 tons of mixed recyclables

 We recycled nearly 7.8 tons of electronics and old appliances, ensuring outdated tech is properly handled at the end of its life.

 288 tons of composted material were turned into nutrient-rich soil.

 RiverCentre refreshed 27 furniture pieces with premium, sustainably certified textiles, diverting them from the landfill and enhancing our spaces.

 Our annual recycling rate hit 62%, keeping more waste out of landfills.

 We recarpeted 51,000 sq. ft. of ballroom and meeting room space using sustainably certified products.

 Our kitchens recycled 11.3 tons of cooking grease, turning waste into renewable biofuel.

 398 pounds of wood shavings left over from the AWW International Woodturning Symposium at RiverCentre were donated to a local farm for animal bedding.

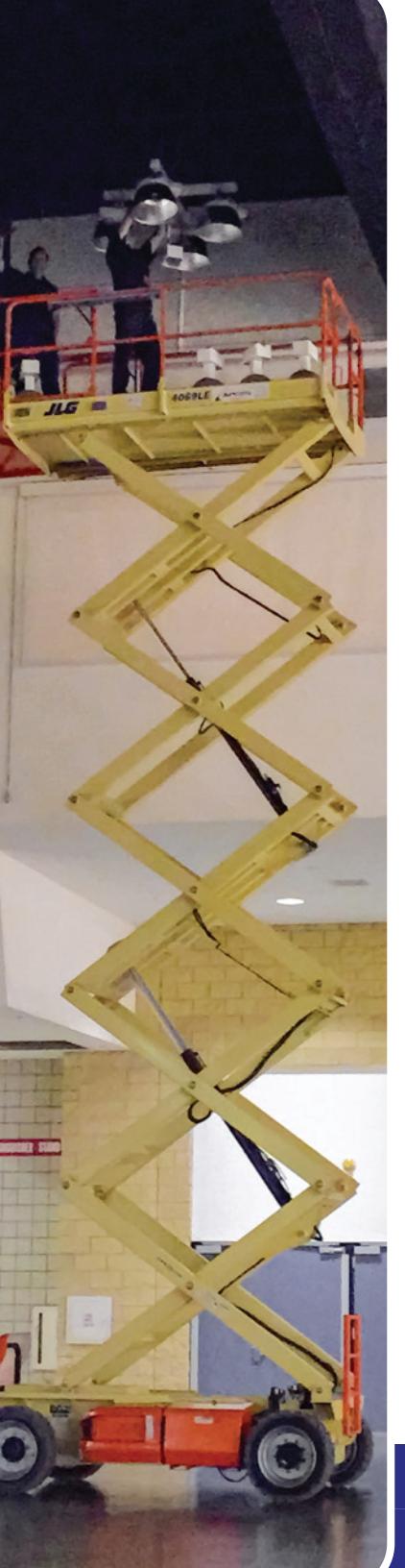
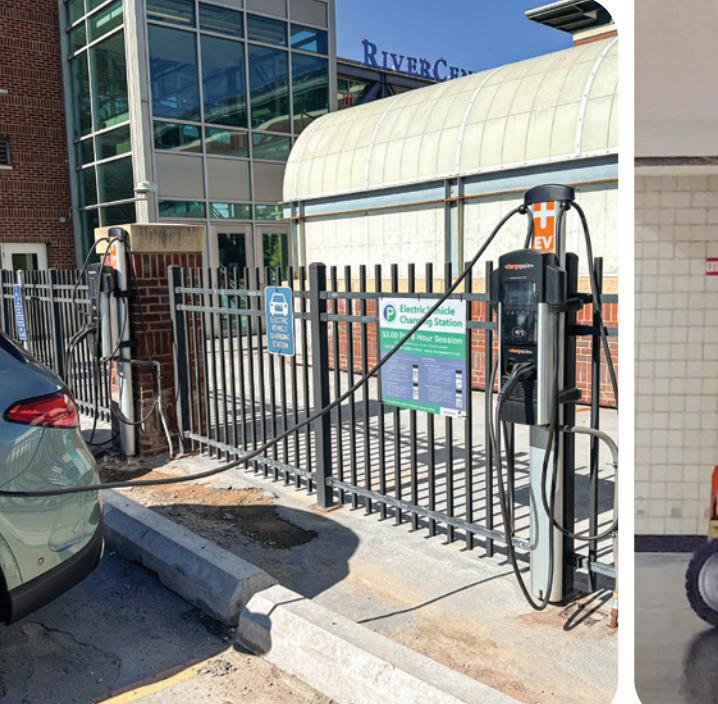
ONGOING EFFORTS

 A Purchasing Playbook helps our staff make earth-friendly purchasing decisions.

 All disposable products in RiverCentre's catering operation are 100% compostable.

 We recycle over 16 different types of materials throughout the year.

 After each food show at RiverCentre, our Green Team sorts waste and donates materials to divert products from the landfill.



ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION



2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

 We invested in 13.1 million kWh Renewable*Connect electricity, which powers our campus with wind and solar power.

 Our solar garden subscription generated 5.2 million kWh of renewable electricity.

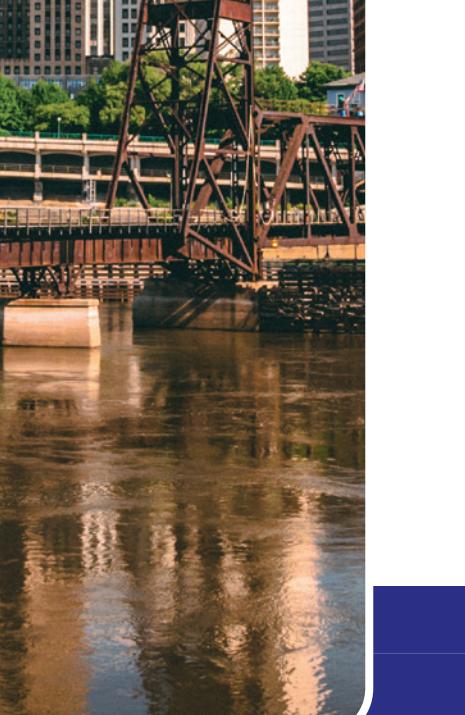
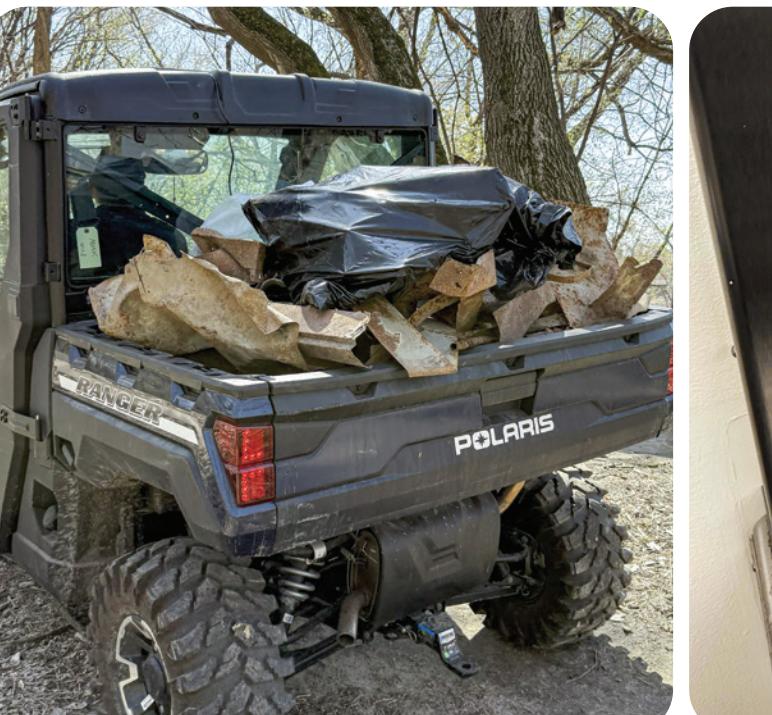
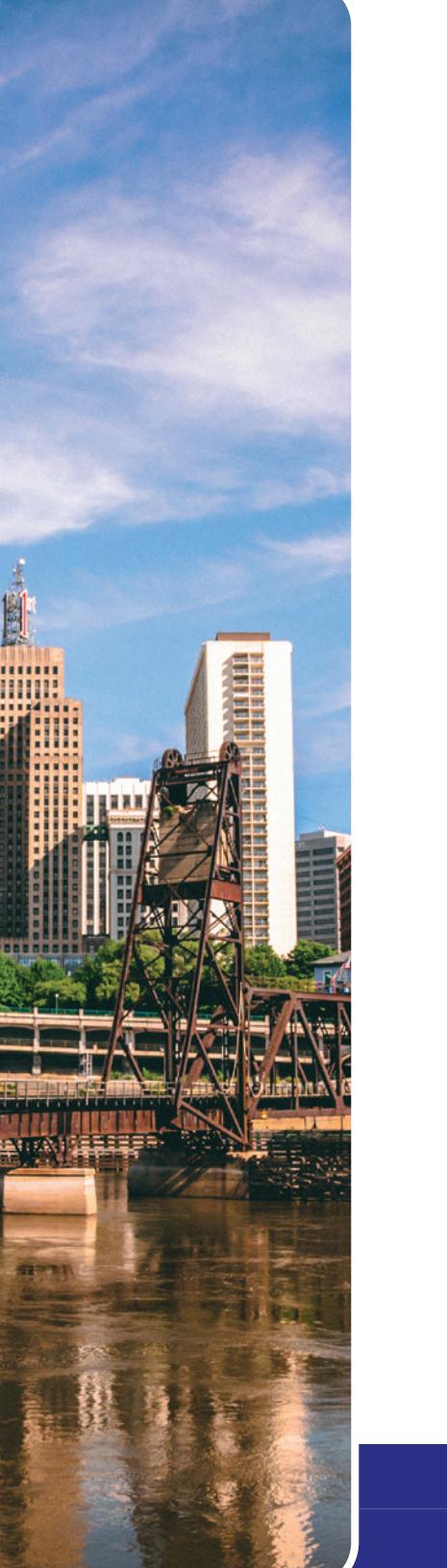
 On-site solar energy produced 1.0 million kWh.

 Since launching our sustainability program in 2009, we've converted 90% of the lighting at Grand Casino Arena and Saint Paul RiverCentre to LED. At Roy Wilkins Auditorium, 60% of the fixtures have also been upgraded to energy-efficient technology.

ONGOING EFFORTS

 Eight electric vehicle charging stations at the RiverCentre Parking Ramp make it easy for guests and staff to choose cleaner, carbon-free commuting options.

 Five bike racks across our campus encourage eco-friendly travel and support a healthier, sustainable way to get to work and events.



WATER

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS



We're proud to use only 7.5 gallons of water per visitor – far less than most venues our size.



Through MnDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program, our employee volunteers cleared 50 bags worth of roadside litter, helping protect our local rivers and natural water resources.



In our tenth year with Adopt-A-River, our employee volunteers cleared 1,000 lbs. of debris from the Mississippi riverbank, adding to the 11,000+ lbs. we've removed since 2015.

ONGOING EFFORTS



Upgraded faucets save 78,000 gallons of water every year, proving a small change can make a big impact.



Water bottle filling stations throughout campus make it easier for employees and guests to stay hydrated and skip single-use plastics.

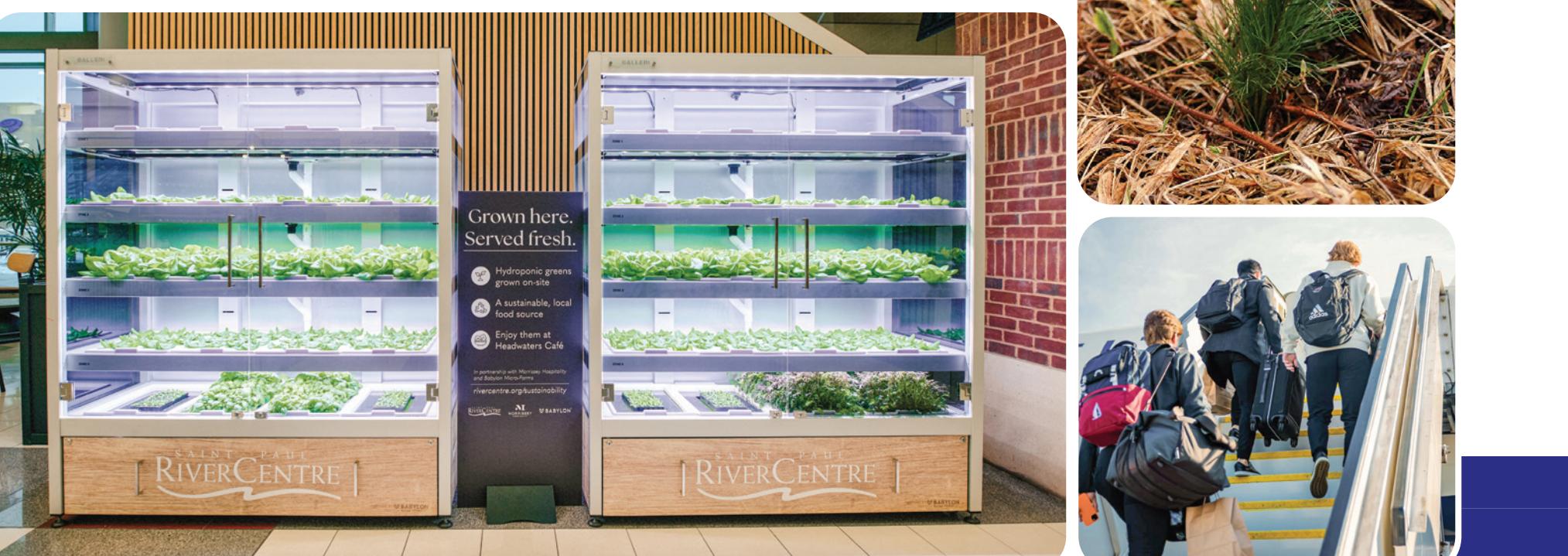


Smart monitoring systems help us track water use by event, so we can keep improving efficiency.



We've adopted eight local storm drains, keeping our neighborhoods clean and protecting nearby waterways.





ENVIRONMENT & AIR QUALITY

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Through our partnership with the Green Cities Accord, the Minnesota Wild are taking climate action beyond the ice by offsetting team air travel with Carbon+ Credits that fund urban reforestation. By converting travel emissions with planted trees, every road trip helps restore local forests and bring cleaner air to our communities. Last season, the Wild offset more than 1,300 metric tons of CO₂—the equivalent of removing hundreds of cars from the road for a year.

Saint Paul RiverCentre expanded that initiative so event organizers and guests could join the movement. The result is Trees for Travel – a simple, impactful way for clients to make their events more sustainable.

Through this program, organizers can opt in to purchase carbon credits that fund tree planting projects across the Twin Cities, based on estimated attendee travel. The process is seamless and attendees don't need to lift a finger, but their presence still helps make a difference.

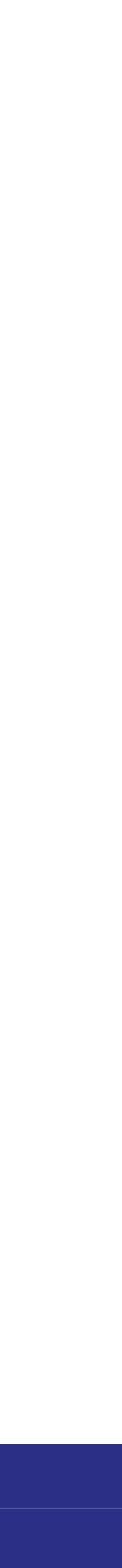
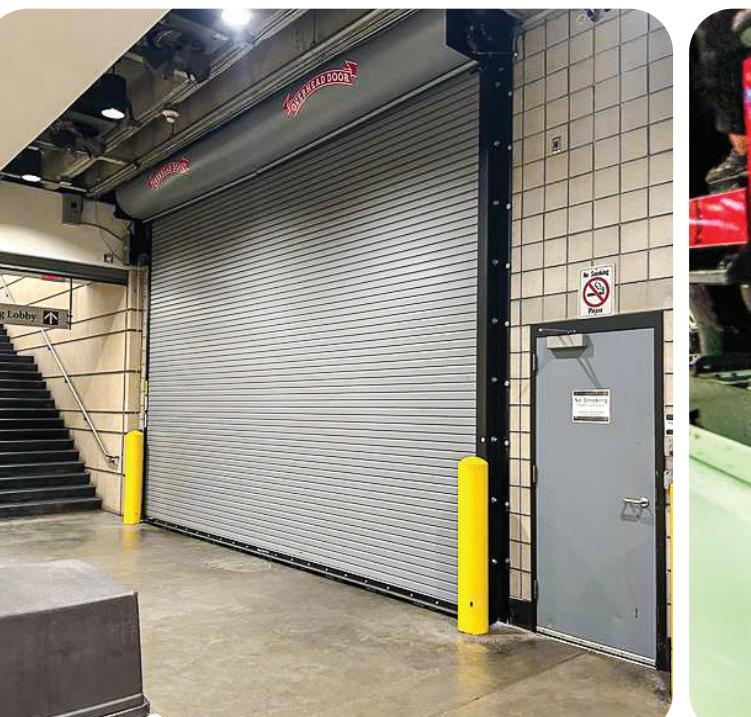
The first event to participate in the Trees for Travel program offset emissions equivalent to 12.6 cross-country car trips, showing how collective action, one event at a time, can lead to lasting environmental change. With Trees for Travel, every journey to the arena or convention center helps grow a cleaner, greener future for our community.



-  A year-round micro-farm was added to Saint Paul RiverCentre to grow hyper-local produce for our Headwaters Café.
-  We planted 2,858 tree seedlings, one for every RiverCentre room rented, through our partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

ONGOING EFFORTS

-  Our Atmos Air purification system improves indoor air quality while reducing energy use across our facilities.
-  No idling in the loading dock minimized exhaust fumes in the building.
-  Some of our cleaning equipment uses only water, reducing the need for chemical cleaners and conserving resources.



TECHNOLOGY

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS



The hum of progress sounds a little different at Grand Casino Arena and Saint Paul RiverCentre these days: quieter, cleaner, and electric. Our campus boasts a fleet of more than 40 electric vehicles, including floor scrubbers, ice resurfacers, electric carts, and lifts. They help keep our operations running smoothly and sustainably, from the rink to the back of our exhibition halls.

ONGOING EFFORTS



KOLO Smart Restroom Technology tracks real-time usage and sends instant alerts, allowing staff to refill only when needed, reducing waste, saving labor, and improving restroom efficiency and sustainability.



Our ammonia-based rink refrigeration has very low environmental impact compared to traditional refrigerants; it's a natural product with zero global warming potential.



We prevent wasted energy with energy monitoring software to track electricity, heating, cooling, and gas use.



High-speed loading dock doors save energy by keeping cooler air conditioned air inside the building.





COMMUNITY: INCLUSIVITY



BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

- As the home ice to the two-time defending PWHL champion Minnesota Frost, we help elevate professional women's hockey and inspire future athletes.
- Fans at our Native American Heritage Game donated winter coats to the American Indian Family Center and raised thousands to support youth hockey and diversity programs.
- Minnesota Roller Derby celebrated its 21st season at Roy Wilkins Auditorium, marking a legacy of empowerment for women, non-binary, and gender-expansive athletes, with more than 1,000 skaters in its history.

EMPOWERING EQUITY THROUGH SPORT

- Over 1,400 athletes of all abilities took the ice at the 9th annual Hendrickson Foundation National Hockey Festival in Blaine.
- The Wild partners with Minnesota Special Hockey, Sled Hockey, Warriors Hockey, Blind Hockey, and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Hockey, ensuring everyone has a place to play.
- The 4th annual Hockey Without Limits Camp brought together more than 300 skaters to celebrate diversity and inclusion in the sport.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

- Hockey is for Me introduced 60 kids of color to hockey through free skating lessons and financial grants to stay in the game.
- Hockey's Beauty Club promotes inclusivity and kindness, and takes a stand against bullying by offering support for LGBTQ+ youth in hockey.
- Our partnership with the All Trans Draft Tournament gave trans and non-binary players from around the world a space to compete and belong.

ACCESS FOR ALL

- Our venues are designed for universal accessibility, ensuring guests with mobility, hearing, or visual limitations enjoy the same great experience as everyone else.
- We partner with the Autism Society of Minnesota to provide free sensory kits for guests at all events to manage overstimulation.



COMMUNITY: END POVERTY

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

-  With 40 hours of paid volunteer time off, 124 employees donated 1,762 hours last year, helping over 23 organizations thrive.
-  55 employees participated in our annual Habitat for Humanity Build Week, helping create housing for local families.
-  Our Green Team packaged 35,500 lbs. of food following RiverCentre events, which was donated to our community.
-  Hockey Day Minnesota raised more than \$200,000 for the Shakopee community by bringing people to local restaurants, hotels and businesses.
-  We provide year-round living wage jobs that enable our staff to build a sustainable life in our community.





COMMUNITY: WELL-BEING

2024-2025 HIGHLIGHTS

 We invest in our team's well-being with an on-campus fitness center, a rooftop herb and vegetable garden, and an Employee Assistance Program offering mental health and wellness support.

 Our Floor Hockey League celebrated 12 seasons with 45 players participating.

 The new employee Run Club met weekly and joined the NHL-wide 5K.

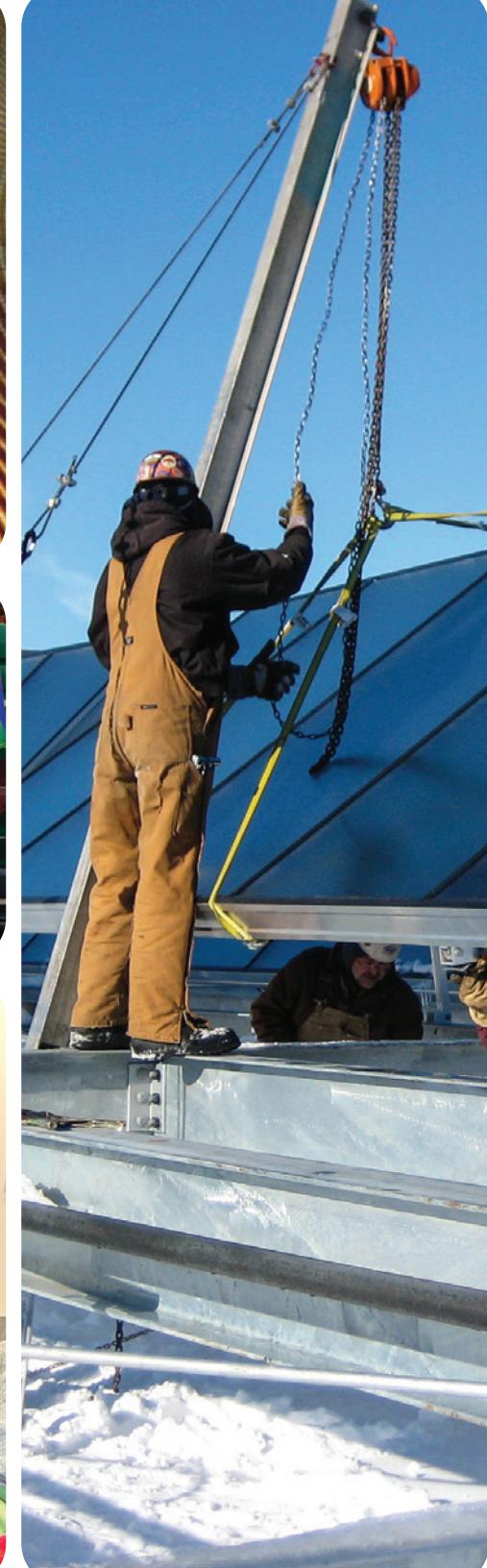
 Three Employee Resource Groups supporting faith-based, women's, and LGBTQ+ communities help ensure team members feel seen, supported, and celebrated.

 61 employees volunteered with Wild Buddies, dedicating more than 1,000 hours last school year to mentor St. Paul students and strengthen community connections.

 Through Faceoff for Fitness and Future Goals, we teach kids the importance of staying active and making healthy choices on and off the ice.

 Our campus hosts wellness-focused events throughout the year, including our annual Red Cross Blood Drive, uniting employees in service to others.

 Wild University brought six sessions to Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities, giving students a behind-the-scenes look at careers in sports and teamwork.



AWARDS

Grand Casino Arena has been honored as a 2025 Green Operations & Advanced Leadership (GOAL) Sustainability Contender, earning an impressive 26 medals at the second annual GOAL Medal Awards. These accolades include two gold, 15 silver, and nine bronze medals, each reflecting the venue's measurable progress in sustainable operations and its commitment to holistic environmental, social, and governance strategies.

Grand Casino Arena and Saint Paul RiverCentre are proud to be the only complex in the world to receive these three independent certifications.



PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships accelerate our progress by combining strengths, sharing knowledge, and driving greater impact. We collaborate with local, national, and global partners to advance sustainability across a range of initiatives.



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**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
ACTION CAMPAIGN**



GOAL



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