



For immediate release
April 21, 2010

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THE CNE: It's Easy Being Green at the Fair!

2010 CNE Organizers celebrate Earth Day with a commitment to surpass their green goals already the best of North American fairs.

The Organizers of the 2010 Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) are committed to surpass their 2009 "green" achievements with an even greater expansion of environmental initiatives and the introduction of new programs.

"The CNE is the greenest fair in North America as recognized by the association of fair and industry organizations" says Virginia Ludy, the CNE's Director of Operations and Acting General Manager. "The CNE has been tracking its recycling, energy conservation and reviewing all its operations with the environment in mind. Each year, we look at ways to improve or expand "green" thinking from the visitor experience, to the midway to exhibitors and vendors. It's ongoing, but we're finding everyone is embracing our initiatives which enable us to reach our targets and reduce our overall impact on the environment."

Last summer, the CNE re-cycled 77.3% (868,245 kg) of its total waste (1,228,120 kg) which was diverted from landfill.

2010 Initiatives:

- This year CNE will be expanding its organic waste re-cycling program throughout the grounds. Last year, organic waste was recycled in the Food Building, Direct Energy Centre and RibFest areas only.
- All Styrofoam will be eliminated on the grounds at the 2010 fair.
- All Food Vendors will be required to use compostable plates, cups etc.
- The Environmental Initiatives deposit program, which was introduced in 2009 with the fair's outdoor concessionaires and Food Building vendors, will be expanded to include all exhibitors by 2011.
- There will be no beer bottles used on site during the CNE. All beer will be served in cans thereby minimizing the need for plastic cups. All cups used in beer service will be made of compostable materials. The overall number of cups used is expected to decrease by more than 50% by moving to cans.
- The CNE will be expanding its Energy Conservation Program and will be working with Exhibitors and Concessionaires to expand its electrical

conservation program. "Kilowatt Cops" will patrol the grounds to ensure that energy is not being wasted.

- In 2010, the CNE will begin to explore a water conservation program.
- At this summer's fair, the CNE will be expanding its self-serve water stations program by adding 5 more water stations (with four spigots each) for a total of 10 water stations located throughout the CNE grounds. Here, visitors can refill their own water bottles with City of Toronto tap water.

Other 2010 initiatives:

- The Geo Thermal system in the Press Building is now fully on-line
- Bottled water which had been provided to staff at gates and other outdoor locations was replaced with refillable drinking vessels and staff was educated where the closest refill station is.
- Working with concessionaires in trying to find alternative low energy lights for midway rides and games.
- Encouraging food concessionaires and Food Building exhibitors to buy locally grown food products.
- Working with our midway provider North American Midway Entertainment in rolling out their environmental plan. Examples include reducing the number of trucks used to move the show, turning off of air conditioners in housing units and offices during non-use periods of time, converting lights on rides to low energy alternatives, exploring the use of cooking grease to fuel generators etc.
- Reducing the use of gas powered golf carts and Kubota's during the fair period.
- Encourage patrons coming to the CNE by public transit, bicycle or walking.

Greening the CNE – History of Firsts

2009:

- Recycled 77.3% of total waste. The solid waste re-cycled included:
 - **189,880 kg** of cardboard; **267,611 kg** clean fill/soil/sand; **147,249 kg** organic waste; **229,068 kg** manure; **89,891 kg** glass/cans/plastic; **21,418 kg** grease; **27,0005 kg** plastic wrap; **25,500 kg** hand towels.
- Introduced the CNE Smart Award, which was presented to Premier Amusements for its solar powered Duck Pond game
- Temperature levels for all air conditioned buildings were set at 25 degrees and all doors were closed when air conditioning system was being utilized. Air conditioning was also turned off during move-in and move-out and non-show hours.
- All service orders for outdoor concessionaires and food-building exhibitors were included in their contracts thus reducing the need to distribute paper order forms.
- All concessionaires and food building exhibitors were required to make an Environmental Deposit which was refunded to those exhibitors and concessionaires who implemented energy conservation and waste reduction programs.
- The number of solar powered garbage compactors was increased to three on the site.

2008:

- CNE was the first event at Exhibition Place to introduce organic recycling for food waste and organic materials.
- CNE accelerated its recycling of paper hand towels, manure, wood concrete, clean fill, cardboard, plastics and cans, fluorescent bulbs, batteries and wood.
- CNE added another solar powered compactor in one of the sorting stations.
- More electronic distribution of information to exhibitors and concessionaires.
- More LED lights incorporated into decorative features of the fair thus replacing the use of incandescent bulbs.
- CNE solar powered golf carts introduced into the fleet of golf carts. In addition, staff encouraged to limit the use of gas powered golf carts.
- First-time inclusion of two new solar powered concessions games on the midway.
- New requirements for midway contractor and all concessionaires to provide plans for how they will reduce their impact on environment and reduce energy consumption.
- All kitchen cooking grease was sold to a local poultry farmer who cleansed the grease and uses it as a natural growth supplement for his poultry.

2007

- CNE featured a solar powered compactor in one of the sorting stations.
- CNE Concessions Department had a new web link developed for Food Building Concessionaires and Exhibitors through which information that was previously distributed to them in hard copy form was now made available to them electronically.
- In 2007, staff introduced new regulations for outdoor concessionaires whereby decorative lights were to be turned off during day light hours.

2006

- CNE converted all decorative lighting in trees to LED lights; this program was expanded in 2007 and 2008 and continued in 2009.
- In 2006, the CNE Operations Department followed the lead of Exhibition Place Parking and successfully converted three large parking lots to solar powered pay and display lots. This eliminated the need for installing parking kiosks that consumed electricity from the electrical grid.

2005

- New bicycle racks and bike parking areas were provided at each of the CNE pedestrian gates. These areas have had to be expanded each year due to demand by our visitors.
- The CNE expanded the bicycle permit program on the grounds whereby staff and exhibitors will now be permitted to use bicycles with restrictions similar to those in place for golf carts.
- All advance pass sales for exhibitors and concessionaires were done electronically reducing the amount of paper required for these transactions.

About the CNE

The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) is Canada's largest fair and the fifth largest in North America. Founded in 1879, the CNE attracts more than a million visitors over 18 days and generates more than \$50 million in economic impact for the City of Toronto and over \$70 million for the Province of Ontario on an annual basis. The 2010 CNE takes place from August 20 to September 6 and offers more than 100 concerts, events and attractions that are all free with admission to the fair. Visit **TheEx.com** for details.