



CUPE



CUTTING CONVENTION CARBON

We are taking steps at this national convention to make it the greenest CUPE convention yet. We know that when we get together as trade unionists we have an impact on the environment. Climate change, waste, deteriorated water and air quality, and many other environmental issues are critically important to all CUPE members. We have improved how we do union business but there are still further steps we can make to cut back on the greenhouse gas emissions and waste from convention.

Here are suggestions for lowering your carbon footprint at convention and travelling to and from convention.

At convention

- Reduce waste and recycle as much material as possible. Waste disposal emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
- Eat local food, cut back your food waste and avoid using disposable containers and cutlery.
- Drink tap water, not bottled water.
- Carry and use a travel mug for drinking coffee, tea, etc.
- Walk to the convention centre from your hotel rather than taking a taxi. The convention centre can be reached on foot in ten minutes or so from most hotels where delegates will be staying.
- Take public transit to get to downtown Vancouver to get to the convention centre and/or hotels.
- Minimize and conserve your electricity use. Turn computers, cell phones, handheld devices and other electronic devices off when not in use.

- Unplug re-chargers for these devices when they are not in use. Re-chargers use “idle power” when plugged in, which means they drain, use and waste electricity simply by being plugged into an outlet.
- Turn off lights and appliances in your hotel room when not in use.
- Conserve heating and cooling energy in your hotel room by turning the heat down and the cooling off when you’re not in your hotel room.

Getting there and getting home

- Car-pool with other delegates from your local or city if you’re within driving distance from Vancouver. If you’re driving, advertise via your local’s website, email contacts, and networking groups that you could drive others to and from convention.
- Take the bus or train rather than fly if you’re located close to Vancouver (e.g., from anywhere within British Columbia and even parts of Alberta that have rail service to Vancouver, such as Edmonton). Travel by train emits ten times less carbon dioxide as travel by airplane.

These are a few steps for our union to take to lessen the climate-damaging impact of our work together at convention. While we value the opportunity to get together as a union, we must act responsibly and cut carbon where we can.