

CUTTING CONVENTION CARBON



CUPE's national environment policy calls on our union to cut greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. 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. CUPE's National Convention includes an environmental program to reduce carbon pollution. 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

- Talk to CUPE green stewards for tips on going green at convention.
- The global plastics pollution problem is a huge issue. Eliminate using plastics at convention by, for example, choosing paper products for things like carry-out containers. Recycle all materials properly while at convention and reduce garbage, as waste disposal emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
- Eat local food, cut back your food waste and do not use disposable plastic 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.

- Take public transit while in Quebec City.
- 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 Quebec City. 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 Quebec City. Travel by train is a better environmental choice as it 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 pollution where we can.