

# A SUSTAINABLE CONFERENCE



# BCO – RUNNING CARBON NEUTRAL CONFERENCES SINCE 2007

Our industry is at the forefront of Britain's efforts to reach net zero emissions. The BCO understands the importance of these efforts and we are proud to say that this Conference will be carbon neutral.

## A CARBON NEUTRAL CONFERENCE

The BCO Conference 2020 is CarbonNeutral® with emissions reduced to net zero thanks to U+I, our Sustainability Sponsor.

U+I has kindly offset the cost of the carbon levy applied to delegate tickets to keep it the same as European BCO conferences – £4.95. Simply 'opt in' for this levy when buying your ticket to keep your attendance carbon neutral.

Our carbon offset scheme will support a wind power project in Andhra Pradesh, India, a partnership which has been coordinated by Natural Capital Partners. All emissions produced from heating, lighting and waste as well as air travel for each delegate will be offset through this scheme, creating a carbon neutral Conference.

## SUSTAINABLE PARTNERS

Alongside our carbon offset scheme, the Conference is made more sustainable through our choice of partners for accommodation, entertainment and transport.

### The Fairmont Royal York Hotel

The conference venue, The Fairmont Royal York Hotel, was chosen due to its exceptional commitment to sustainability. Hotel Association of Canada Green Key Eco Rating – 4 Green Keys. Green Key Global is the only environmental certification body designed for the hotel and meeting industry and is recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC).

The Fairmont Royal York supports four main components of an Eco-Meeting/Conference: Eco-Accommodation, Eco-Cuisine, Eco-Service, and Eco-Programming.

- 1. Eco-venue:** Every meeting room is equipped with re-usable services such as china, cutlery and napkins in the place of disposable alternatives. This helps the Fairmont minimise the ecological footprint of meetings and events. This approach extends to décor and amenities such as the use of white boards rather than paper flip charts.
- 2. Eco-accommodation:** Rooms benefit from recycling bins, energy-efficient lighting and water-saving showerheads, toilets and tap aerators. The Fairmont also offers a sheet and towel exchange programme that encourages guests to be eco-friendly.

**3. Eco-cuisine:** The hotel's restaurant, Green Cuisine Fairmont, is committed to purchasing local, organic, Fairtrade and sustainable food products wherever possible. This includes using organic or biodynamic wines, sourcing produce from local purveyors and using the on-site herb gardens. The emphasis is on healthy, environmentally friendly and delicious food. Leftover food is donated to Second Harvest, a Toronto-based organisation that collects perishable food, which would otherwise go to waste.

**4. Eco-service:** Recycling bins can be found in every guestroom and public area throughout the hotel. 67% of hotel waste avoids landfill through recycling and the use of compost bins. In addition, the Fairmont check-in/check-out service is paperless and works with like-minded partners to improve supply chain efficiency and minimise waste. These include, but are not limited to: the Mayor's City of Toronto programme (Clean & Beautiful); One Million Acts of Green; Second Harvest; Interval House, shelter for women and children; Children's Wish Foundation

### CN Tower

The CN Tower, where we will host our welcome reception, has worked hard to become sustainable. The Tower has reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 85% since 2006 and continues to look at ways of further reducing emissions. Meanwhile, all food will be market fresh, locally sourced and sustainable.

### Transport

The BCO is proud to have partnered with Air Canada, the official airline for the conference. It was awarded '2018 Eco-Airline of the Year' by Air Transport World. Discounts for BCO Conference delegates start from 5% up to 12% depending on the fare class.

To book a discounted flight, access [aircanada.com](http://aircanada.com) and enter the promotion code **B9EJE4X1** in the flight search panel.

Upon landing, delegates are encouraged to use the UP Express. The UP Express connects Toronto Pearson International Airport to Union Station in the heart of downtown Toronto in just 25 stress-free minutes – less than half the time it often takes by vehicle. Union Station is just across the road from the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Visit [UPEXpress.com](http://UPEXpress.com) and use the promotion code **BCO2020** to receive a 25% discount on Adult Return tickets from Pearson Airport to Toronto Union Station (regular price **\$24.70\* CAD**).

This year the Conference will be using as few coaches as possible to transport delegates on the tours programme. The hotel is within walking distance of the CN Tower, meaning we will not be providing coaches to and from the welcome drinks and buffet dinner. Additionally, the gala dinner is housed within the Fairmont Royal York.

### Event management

SAS, the BCO's event management partner, works hard to reduce the impact of its business on the environment.

SAS has endorsed the principles of sustainable events, this is an initiative developed by a multi-stakeholder group convened by the Events Industry Council (EIC).

To read more about SAS' sustainability statement please, visit <https://www.sasevents.co.uk/sustainability/>

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