# sustainability

## **Driving Sustainability Demand**

Mariela McIlwraith, CMP, CMM, MBA Director of Sustainability Events Industry Council



#### Introducing... EVENTS INDUSTRY COUNCIL





### Agenda

Share information on trends in the demand for sustainable products and services

Share how we implement sustainability at events for the Events Industry Council



Sustainable
Meeting and Event
Practices:
The State of the
Industry

Yen-Soon Kim, Ph.D.

Dina Marie Zemke, Ph.D.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas



#### Thank-you to our study sponsors







Sustainable Meeting and Event Practices:
The State of the Industry



WILLIAM F. HARRAH College of HOTEL ADMINISTRATION

# Methodology - employed a "mixed methods" approach



#### Qualitative: telephone interviews

• 16 interviews conducted with customers, planners, and suppliers



#### Quantitative: online survey

- Data collection in June-July 2016
- Total usable surveys: 159
  - Customers: 34 (21%), 3<sup>rd</sup> party planners: 62 (39%), Suppliers: 63 (40%)
- 5 continents



Sustainable Meeting and Event Practices:
The State of the Industry





WILLIAM F. HARRAH College of
HOTEL
ADMINISTRATION

#### Results - sustainable practices

Sorting recyclables 73% Vegetarian options 64.80% Allergy-friendly food 59.10% Energy-efficient lighting 57.90% Local food 56.60% Water stations 56% Food donations 55.30% Linen/towel reuse 52.80% Volunteer projects 52.20% Composting 50.90% Mobile apps 50.30%



Sustainable Meeting and Event Practices:
The State of the Industry





WILLIAM F. HARRAH College of
HOTEL
ADMINISTRATION

### Who is responsible?





### Elements that affect sustainability

Infrastructure

Design

Participants

Venue and hotel

Food

Responsible consumption

**Destination** 

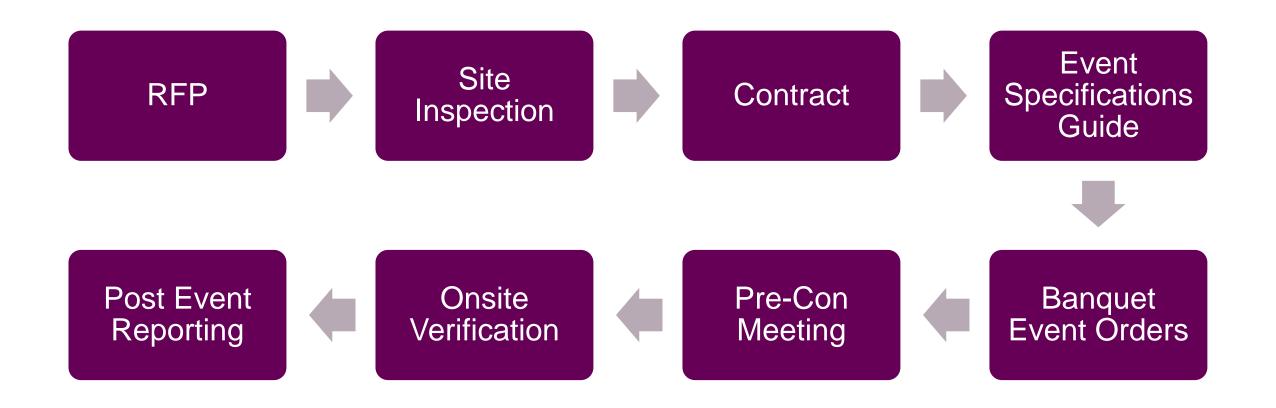
Logistics

Education

Work together to achieve sustainable results

sustainability

#### **Process**





### **Setting Priorities**





#### **Priorities**

## Carbon Footprint

- Transportation
- Energy efficient
- Renewable energy
- Food choices
- Reporting

#### Water Footprint

- Water efficient
- Landscaping
- Paper use
- Food choices
- Reporting

#### **Materials**

- Reduction
- Diversion
- Reuse
- Reporting

#### People

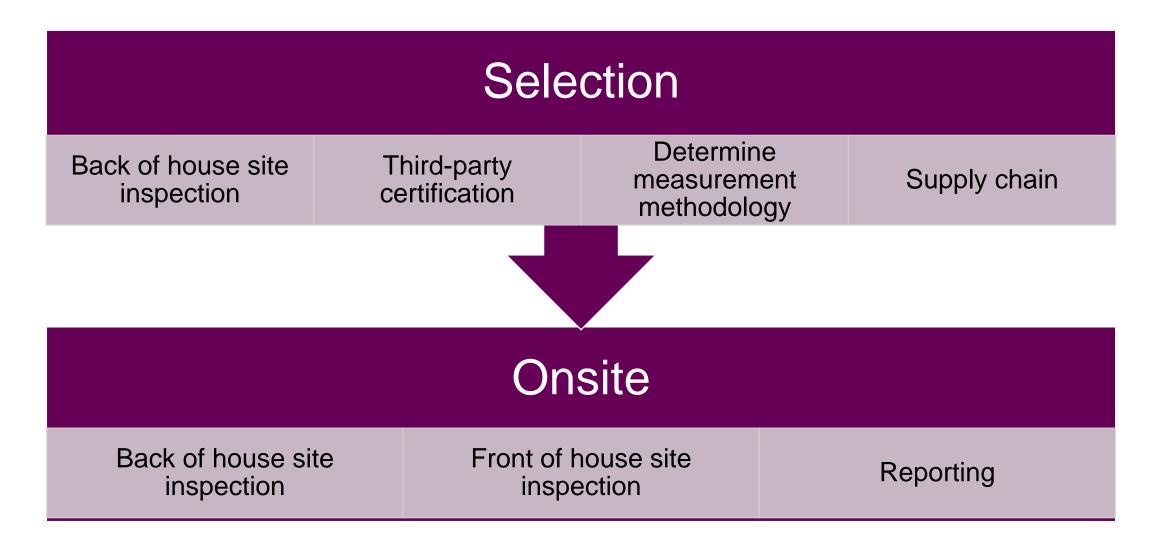
- Sustainability team
- Labour practices
- ECPAT training
- Accessibility



Destination specific issues



#### Verification









#### Results - metrics



- ➤ 20-25% of customers/planners request/require tracking of metrics
- Suppliers do most of the tracking
- Carbon footprint measurement has relatively low tracking
  - 16 survey participants request/use the Hotel Carbon Measurement Initiative (HCMI)
  - 27 survey participants request/use another carbon measurement tool



Sustainable Meeting and Event Practices:
The State of the Industry





WILLIAM F. HARRAH College of
HOTEL
ADMINISTRATION

# On a scale of 1 to 5\*, what is the effect on employees and customers?

4.08

Sustainable practices/services are performing well

4.26

Sustainable practices are satisfying for their customers

4.22

Sustainable practices are having a positive effect on sales

3.66

 Companies could do a better job of training employees to perform these practices/services

\* Data expressed as the mean value of agreement with the statement.



Sustainable Meeting and Event Practices:
The State of the Industry





WILLIAM F. HARRAH College of HOTEL ADMINISTRATION

#### "Tell us" versus "ask us"



- Customers want suppliers to automatically provide information about sustainable practices
  - They do not think they should have to ask for it
- Most suppliers do not automatically provide this information in the proposal
  - Suppliers assume that the customer will ask for it if they want it



Sustainable Meeting and Event Practices:
The State of the Industry





# sustainability

### **Upcoming Programmes**

Register at: www.gmicglobal.org

Sustainable Event Professional Certificate
November 12-13, 2017, National Harbor, MD, USA (co-located with CMP Conclave)

