SADC +CAE

Societe d'aide au développement des collectivités et Centre d'aide aux entreprises

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BEST PRACTICES

FOR GENERAL CONTRACTORS

MAKE RESPONSIBLE PURCHASES

- ightarrow Adopt a responsible purchasing policy.
- $\, \rightarrow \,$ Educate your suppliers about reducing packaging.
- \rightarrow Shop local, sustainable products.
- $\rightarrow~$ Prioritize the use of prefabricated components, as factory production is optimized to generate less waste.

MANAGE YOUR WASTE EFFICIENTLY

- $\rightarrow~$ Implement the 5 Rs (rethink your needs, reduce, reuse, recycle and reclaim).
- → Learn more about material recovery services (recycling centre, ecocentre) offered by your RCM or municipality, or a material recovery business.
- → Offer employee trainings on best practices in CRD (construction, renovation, demolition) waste management.
- $\rightarrow~$ Encourage R&D to implement innovative solutions (e.g., brick recycling by Groupe Maçon).
- ightarrow Opt for deconstruction over demolition whenever possible.
- → Sort and resell or give away materials in the event of demolitions and renovations.
- ightarrow Proactively optimize design to minimize worksite waste.
- \rightarrow Provide durable, reusable personal protective equipment.

- \rightarrow Ask suppliers to source or use more sustainable materials.
- $\rightarrow~$ Use eco-friendly materials (with low to no energy and environmental impact) for more sustainable construction.

SAVE WATER

- → Business office: Install devices to reduce water flow during renovations (e.g., toilets, faucets).
- → Use environmentally friendly, phosphate-free cleaning products.
- → Learn more about greywater recycling systems for new construction.
- $\rightarrow~\mbox{Provide}$ bottle refilling stations to encourage employees to use reusable bottles.

USE LESS ENERGY

- → Business office: Implement energy efficiency measures (LED bulbs, programmable thermostat, *Energy Star* appliances, etc.).
- ightarrow Use electric or battery-operated tools.
- ightarrow Look into using generators fuelled by clean energy.
- $\rightarrow~$ Educate yourself on energy-efficient construction methods and related certifications.
- $\rightarrow~$ Learn about the different energy efficiency programs available, like Quebec's~ Energy~ Transition and what they can do for your clients .



REDUCE YOUR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG)

- $\rightarrow~$ Hire an expert to assess your carbon footprint and draw up a plan to cut and offset emissions.
- $\rightarrow~$ Encourage collective and active transportation by installing bike racks and incentivizing carpooling.
- \rightarrow Optimize transportation logistics.
- \rightarrow Go electric when acquiring vehicles.

IMPROVE WORKPLACE WELLNESS, HEALTH AND SAFETY

- \rightarrow Keep a defibrillator and first aid kit accessible onsite.
- \rightarrow Have a first aider present at all times (as required by the CNESST).
- $\rightarrow~$ Review the ergonomics of different tasks and implement recommendations.
- \rightarrow Respect your employees' and coworkers' right to disconnect.

INCREASE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- \rightarrow Share your sustainable development successes.
- \rightarrow Sponsor sports and cultural events.
- ightarrow Get involved in causes and donate used materials to organizations.

NOTES

For more information, reach out to your local's SADC or CAE

sadc-cae.ca

Canada Canada Economic Development offer a financial support to the SADCs and CAEs.