



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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# **Orange County Convention Center receives certification for recycling efforts**

*Becomes first convention center in U.S. to receive ISO 14001:2004 certification*

**ORLANDO, Fla. (March 7, 2007)** – The Orange County Convention Center's (OCCC) Building Services section recently received ISO 14001:2004 certification for its Environmental Management System (EMS). It is the first convention center in the United States to ever receive the certification.

As a participant in the national Environmental Management System initiative (2003-2005), the convention center was able to accomplish a number of achievements through initial implementation of an EMS in Building Services' recycling program. Prior to the EMS, the convention center recycled less than one percent of its total waste stream. Through EMS, the OCCC's accomplishments included:

- 80 percent of all dry waste with 40 percent recovery on all waste in 2006
- 9,000 tons of material diverted for remanufacture
- 871 tons of cardboard and 5.8 tons of office paper recycled
- \$77,500 in tipping fees saved due to recycling efforts
- \$31,435 in recycling rebates
- Streamlined communications concerning environmental practices
- Increased environmental awareness among employees

"We are extremely proud to become the first convention center to obtain certification for our recycling efforts," said Kathie Canning, Deputy General Manager of the Orange County Convention Center. "Being the first to receive this registration sets us apart from other convention centers and positions us to even better serve our clients, employees, and the community at large. By obtaining this registration, the Orange County Convention Center reaffirms its commitment to protecting the environment for future generations."

ISO (International Organization for Standardization) is the source of the ISO 14000 family of environmental management standards and some 15,000 International Standards for business, government and society. ISO is a network of national standards institutes from 146 countries working in partnership with international organizations, governments, industry, business and consumer representatives..

### ***About the Orange County Convention Center***

The Orange County Convention Center is the second largest convention facility in the country. Each year OCCC brings more than 300 events to the Central Florida area. As a result, roughly 1.4 million attendees contribute approximately \$1.4 billion to the area's economic impact each year. For more information about the Orange County Convention Center visit our Web site at [occc.net](http://occc.net).

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