

# Environmental Achievements of the 79th Annual Academy Awards

For the first time in the history of the Oscars, ecologically intelligent practices have been integrated into the event's planning and production. The producer of this prestigious event and the Natural Resources Defense Council, a non-partisan environmental organization, teamed up to launch this ongoing journey to reduce Oscar's ecological footprint. The paper products, supplies, and services for the event were all selected with a sensitivity toward reducing the threats we face from global warming, species extinction, deforestation, toxic waste, and hazardous chemicals in our water and food. For more information on what you can do, please visit [www.oscar.com](http://www.oscar.com) or [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org).



## Oscar Telecast; Attendees: 3,300+; Location: Kodak Theatre

### Energy

- *Reduced Global Warming Emissions:* Carbon offsets for energy used by telecast, preshow, red carpet event and Governor's Ball were purchased by the Academy from Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- *Energy Efficiency Audits:* Energy audit of Kodak Theatre by the LADWP has taken place and an informative report identifying efficiency options was produced; property managers of the theatre and Hollywood & Highland complex (in which the Kodak is situated) have received recommendations for energy efficiency improvements
- *Public Education About Environmental Issues:* During the Academy Awards, former Vice President Al Gore and Leonardo DiCaprio made an on-air announcement about global warming and the carbon-neutral telecast, pre-show, and red-carpet event; the announcement directed viewers to [oscar.com](http://oscar.com) for additional information and links to NRDC and other environmental organizations



### Green room

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Upholstered furniture was returned to manufacturer for reuse/resale
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding; Promotion of Recycling instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Dishware and silverware used in green room were all rental reusable; majority of napkins were cloth (remainder were 100% recycled paper)
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Entire green room will be reused for upcoming event at Kodak
- *Sustainable Agriculture:* Wallcovering material, cadiz, was sustainably harvested and may qualify as rapidly renewable
- *Toxics Use Reduction:* Paints and adhesives used were low-VOC
- *Sustainable Forestry:* Drink tables were made from FSC-certified wood which may qualify as rapidly renewable
- *Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Carpet was made from 100% postconsumer recycled PET plastic
- *Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Wood flooring was made from 90% preconsumer recycled materials.
- *Public Education About Environmental Issues:* NRDC literature placed in green room included Shopper's Guides to Tissue Products and customized tips for greener living pamphlet
- *Public Education About Environmental Issues; Promotion of Sustainable Forestry:* Letter from producer Laura Ziskin describing the Oscar environmental initiative was framed on wall along with green tag from Bonneville Environmental Foundation; wooden frame and paper used were certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

# Environmental Achievements of the 79th Annual Academy Awards



## Set pieces/flowers

- *Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration; Toxic Use Reduction:* Set pieces included Panelite panels made from 80% postconsumer recycled PET plastic. Adhesives used in manufacture of Panelite contained up to 100% postindustrial recycled content which is non-toxic.



## Food/drink

- *Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* 14,000 paper cocktail napkins, 21,000 paper dinner napkins, and 13,000 paper lunch napkins had 100% recycled content (60% postconsumer content)
- *Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Beverage containers will be collected on trays in theatre lobby and separated for recycling by catering staff
- *Promotion of Recycling and Producer Environmental Responsibility; Avoidance of Petroleum-Based Plastics:* Biota bottled water, using cornstarch-based plastic for bottles, were featured in green rooms and dressing rooms, and manufacturer took back used bottles for remanufacturing
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding; Promotion of Recycling and Composting Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Catering crew incorporated primarily reusable serviceware, most of remainder was biodegradable and/or included recycled content
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding; Promotion of Composting Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* The green room and performers' green room will have rental reusable dishware, silverware, glasses, etc. (biodegradable serviceware will be available for to-go needs)
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Press rooms at Renaissance Hotel featured only reusable china, glassware, and silverware
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper; Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Press rooms at Renaissance Hotel featured 100% recycled content napkins
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper; Promotion of Recycling and Composting Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Film shoot of short film aired during telecast featured biodegradable serviceware and 100% recycled content paper towels and napkins



## Transportation

- *Reduced Global Warming Emissions and Use of Fossil Fuels:* Transportation offered by the Academy to presenters and staff included hybrid vehicles



## Paper

- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Tissue products used in theatre, dressing rooms, and green rooms incorporated high recycled content (100% total and up to 80% postconsumer)
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Programs, invitations, RSVP cards, envelopes, and parking passes included 30% postconsumer recycled content
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Gift cards given to presenters were printed on 100% postconsumer recycled paper
- *Public Education About Environmental Issues:* Signs in bathrooms described environmental advantages of using recycled tissue products



## Waste

- *Promotion of Recycling:* Subsequent to the energy audit, the property managers of the Kodak Theatre and adjacent mall complex instituted a comprehensive recycling program with a new waste disposal company – waste was separated into large bin for construction materials, smaller bin for other recyclables (plastics, metals, glass, paper), and smaller bin for non-recyclable garbage
- *Promotion of Recycling:* Non-reusable set pieces and other construction elements was sent to a C&D recovery facility with a 77% recovery success rate – remainder of what is not recoverable was ground into alternate daily cover used at landfills
- *Promotion of Recycling:* Batteries were collected separately and recycled by stagehands
- *Promotion of Recycling:* Press rooms at Renaissance Hotel recycled glass, aluminum, plastic, and paper
- *Promotion of Recycling and Public Education About Environmental Issues:* Laminated recycled paper was used for reusable signs to label dumpsters (instead of the standard PVC)

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- *Promotion of Recycling; Public Education About Environmental Issues:* 50 small recycling containers were purchased by Academy and placed with appropriate signage throughout Kodak Theatre; they will be stored and reused in upcoming years. Larger recycling containers made from recycled cardboard provided by the waste hauler were in other areas.

## Pre-Show; Attendees: 2,400 (another 3,300 pass through); Location: outside Kodak Theatre



### Energy

- *Reduced Global Warming Emissions:* Carbon offsets for energy used by the pre-show were purchased by the Academy from Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- *Reduced Air Pollution:* Arranged for the event's energy engineers to visit with a company that produces small, high-efficiency, low-pollution microturbines. Though the use of these turbines was not feasible for this year's events, NRDC and the Academy gained valuable knowledge and made valuable contacts for use at future events.
- *Reduced Air Pollution:* Investigated the use of biodiesel generators for back-up at the pre-show. For various reasons this option was not feasible at this year's events, but NRDC and the Academy gained valuable knowledge that will assist with similar initiatives at future events.



### Set pieces/flowers

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Bleachers, bridge, etc. are rented each year



### Food/drink

- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper, Avoidance of Petroleum-Based Plastics; Promotion of Recycling and Composting Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* 1,000 police box lunches were packaged in biodegradable corn-based plastic boxes and included biodegradable silverware and recycled paper napkins
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper, Avoidance of Petroleum-Based Plastics; Promotion of Recycling and Composting Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Serviceware provided in domestic press lot was biodegradable and/or incorporated recycled content
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper and Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* 5,000 paper lunch napkins used in craft services for staff and in international press lot had 100% recycled content (60% postconsumer)
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding; Promotion of Composting Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Catering for staff had rental reusable dishware, silverware, glasses, etc. (biodegradable serviceware will be available for to-go needs)



### Paper

- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Tissue products used in pre-show trailers and portable toilets incorporated high recycled content (100% total and 35-80% postconsumer)



### Waste

- *Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Glass and plastic bottles, metal cans, cardboard, and mixed paper were collected for recycling



### Transportation

- *Promotion of Alternative-Fuel Vehicles:* Investigated the possibility of fuel cell buses to transport press and staff. Though this initiative was not feasible for this year, NRDC and the Academy made valuable contacts for use at future events.

## SciTech Awards; Attendees: 500; Location: Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel



### Energy

- *Energy Conservation and Efficiency:* Hotel has "green team," is part of L.A. powerdown program, uses compact fluorescents, etc.



### Set pieces/flowers

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Up to 90% of the set components are stored and reused each year
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper and Promotion of Sustainable Forestry:* Art director was provided with purchasing guidelines on Forest Stewardship Council certified wood and environmentally preferable paper

# Environmental Achievements of the 79th Annual Academy Awards

- *Promotion of Reuse Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Flower arrangements were either taken home by attendees or returned to florist for reuse



## **Food/drink—food and drink were all provided through hotel**

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Hotel has a “green team”, provides cloth napkins in bathrooms, renewable bamboo hors d’oeuvre skewers; etc.
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Napkins and tablecloths were cloth and reusable, dishware was reusable, etc.
- *Promotion of Reuse Instead of Discarding:* Hotel sought information on donating leftover food
- *Ecologically Preferable Food Options Were Provided:* The hotel prioritizes organic selections and sustainable fish choices where possible; information on ecologically preferable fish choices and other sustainable menu considerations was provided to menu planners



## **Paper**

- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Programs, invitations, RSVP cards, and envelopes included 30% postconsumer recycled content



## **Waste**

- *Promotion of Recycling:* Hotel has a “green team,” extensive recycling of cardboard, paper, containers, batteries, etc.

## **Fashion Show; Attendees: 150; Location: Academy**



### **Energy**

- *Energy Efficiency:* Southern California Edison conducted an energy audit of the Academy buildings, in order to identify opportunities for improved energy efficiency and cost savings



## **Set pieces/flowers**

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Chairs and staging were rented
- *Promotion of Reuse Instead of Discarding:* Flowers were taken home by attendees/staff after the event



## **Food/drink**

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Reusable glasses and dishware were used



## **Paper**

- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Programs and invitations included 30% postconsumer recycled content



## **Nominees Announcements; Attendees: 500; Location: Academy**

### **Energy**

- *Energy Efficiency:* Southern California Edison conducted an energy audit of the Academy buildings, in order to identify opportunities for improved energy efficiency and cost savings



## **Set pieces/flowers**

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Set pieces and platforms were reused and repainted
- *Reuse Instead of Discarding:* Cut flowers were returned to caterer for reuse



## **Food/drink**

- *Promotion of Composting Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Biodegradable dishware and cutlery were used (cups were corn-based, plates/bowls were from sugar cane fiber, cutlery was from potato starch)
- *Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Hot cups were made from recyclable plastic



## **Paper**

- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Nomination ballots and return envelopes included 30% postconsumer recycled content

# Environmental Achievements of the 79th Annual Academy Awards

- Press Packets
  - *Source Reduction:* Fewer paper press packets were distributed at the event than in the past and instead many members of the press downloaded them from the Internet
  - *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Paper used is what's now in stock at Academy, 30% postconsumer



## Nominees Luncheon; Attendees: 400; Location: Beverly Hilton Hotel

### Set pieces/flowers

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Many elements were either rented or part of the hotel (curtains, risers, plants, etc.)
- *Promotion of Reuse Instead of Discarding:* Flower arrangements were either taken home by attendees or returned to florist for reuse
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Some set components were shared with Sci-Tech Awards



### Food/drink

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Many elements were either rented or part of the hotel (napkins, plates, etc.)
- *Ecologically Preferable Food Options Were Provided:* Academy members selecting menu were provided with “greener” fish choices list and other sustainable menu suggestions



### Paper

- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Programs and invitations included 30% postconsumer recycled content

## Governor's Ball; Attendees: 1,500; Location: Hollywood & Highland complex

### Sequoia Productions, an independent company that the Academy contracted to do this event, already had many green procedures in place and added more as a result of this initiative:

- *Source Reduction and Energy Efficiency:* Sequoia Productions purchased a double-sided Energy Star rated copier for their office, and are employing energy-saving practices such as turning off screensavers on computers
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper and Printing:* At the request of Sequoia Productions, NRDC provided them with a list of greener printers in the L.A. area for outsourcing print jobs



### Energy

- *Reduced Global Warming Emissions:* Carbon offsets for energy used by the Governor's Ball were purchased by the Academy from Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- *Energy Efficiency Audits:* Energy audit of Kodak Theatre by the LADWP has taken place and an informative report identifying efficiency options was produced; property managers of the theatre and Hollywood & Highland complex (in which the Kodak is situated) have received recommendations for energy efficiency improvements



### Set pieces/flowers:

- *Promotion of Reuse Instead of Discarding:* Flowers were donated to senior citizen centers after the event
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Most of the set pieces, tables, couches, curtains, etc. were rented
- *Promotion of Sustainable Forestry:* Sequoia Productions prioritized purchase of FSC-certified wood



### Food/drink—provided by caterer Wolfgang Puck

- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* 3,000 linen cocktail napkins were used at telecast and Governor's Ball instead of disposable
- *Source Reduction and Reuse Instead of Buying New and Discarding:* Dishware and other serveware for guests was all reusable
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* 4,000 paper cocktail napkins included 100% recycled content (60% postconsumer)
- *Ecologically Preferable Food:* Nearly 100% of the menu was organic and sustainable, including seafood, dairy, and produce selections (even the large chocolate Oscar is organic)

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- *Promoting Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Beverage containers and other recyclable materials were collected by caterers and separated for recycling
- *Promotion of Reuse Instead of Discarding:* Leftover food was donated to Angel Harvest



## Paper

- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Tissue products used in theatre incorporated high recycled content (100% total and up to 80% postconsumer)
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Programs, invitations, RSVP cards, envelopes, and parking passes included 30% postconsumer recycled content
- *Public Education About Environmental Issues:* Signs in bathrooms described environmental advantages of recycled tissue products



## Waste

- *Promotion of Recycling Instead of Landfilling or Incineration:* Governor's Ball and caterers used on-site facility recycling and waste disposal system described in Telecast section above

## Other

- *Environmental Data Gathering:* NRDC is developing a software program to identify and quantify the ecological impacts related to each event. This program will also be used for future Academy Awards events.
- *Source Reduction:* The Academy combined the production schedule and staff schedule into one document, increasing efficiency and conserving paper
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Art department uses 100% postconsumer paper whenever possible
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Posters were printed on Stora Enso Centura, a premium coated art paper with 10% postconsumer recycled content and FSC-certification
- *Use of Ecologically Superior Paper:* Business cards, letterhead, envelopes, notepads, etc. printed for use by the Academy and Laura Ziskin Productions after the environmental initiative was announced include 30% postconsumer recycled content