

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## BEST PRACTICES

### FOR MICROBREWERIES

#### MAKE RESPONSIBLE PURCHASES

- Adopt a responsible purchasing policy.
- Educate your suppliers about reducing packaging.
- Look into making group purchases with other companies in your sector.
- Shop local, sustainable products.
- Look into using local business waste to make beer (e.g., substandard fruits, surplus production, food waste).
- Research the most environmentally friendly product packaging options based on available recycling infrastructure in the region where the product is sold (cans or glass).

#### USE LESS ENERGY

- Hire an expert to assess your energy consumption, and learn more about alternative energy solutions (heat transfer, using biomass, etc.).
- Install electronic thermostats and set them to drop the temperature after hours.
- Learn how to use new technology to optimize your water heater or mash-tun on the *Québec Energy Transition* website.
- Choose energy-efficient appliances (e.g., *Energy Star*).
- Swap out your lightbulbs for more energy-efficient models, like LEDs.

#### MANAGE YOUR WASTE EFFICIENTLY

- Hire an expert to produce a report on the waste generated by your organization and develop a waste action plan.
- Implement the 5 Rs (rethink your needs, reduce, reuse, recycle and reclaim).
- Identify business opportunities for brewer's spent grain, which can be reused in many ways (animal feed, compost, fertilizer, etc.).
- Look into acquiring a dryer for spent grain or find another way to reduce its weight for transportation and storage.
- Set up sorting areas with clear posters to promote proper materials management.
- Get *ICI on recycle* + certification.

#### SAVE WATER

- Hire an expert to look into implementing a closed-loop water system, in particular for cleaning tanks.
- Install low-flush toilets or devices to reduce water flow on faucets during renovations.
- Use environmentally friendly, phosphate-free cleaning products.
- Set up a rain barrel and use the rainwater collected to water plants and other landscaping.



## REDUCE YOUR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS (GHG)

- Hire an expert to assess your carbon footprint and draw up a plan to cut and offset emissions.
- Ask your suppliers to turn off their truck engines when delivering merchandise to cut their costs and reduce noise, GHG emissions and diesel exhaust at your facilities.
- Add carbon offsets to your delivery costs.
- Install charging stations for electric vehicles.
- Encourage collective and active transportation by installing bike racks and incentivizing carpooling.
- Look into optimizing your distribution network (grouping similar businesses together or other solutions).

## IMPROVE WORKPLACE WELLNESS, HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Look into new HR practices.
- Involve your employees in your work towards becoming environmentally responsible.
- Share human resources with other businesses.
- Optimize production processes, for example by using equipment that automates certain tasks.
- Make sure your facility is equipped with a high-quality airflow system and provide employees with personal protective equipment for their health.
- Keep a defibrillator and first aid kit accessible onsite.
- Have a first aider present at all times (as required by the CNESST).
- Review the ergonomics of different workstations and implement recommendations.
- Respect your employees' and coworkers' right to disconnect.

## INCREASE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Share your sustainable development successes.
- Ensure that physical access and services are tailored to customers with reduced mobility.
- Partner with environmentally friendly events or plan your own, and promote them.
- Sponsor sports and cultural events.
- Get involved in causes.
- Set up partnerships with local businesses, artists and artisans (e.g., consignment products, local artists' works).
- Create a sales/tasting room on site to support the regional economy.
- Encourage people to drink responsibly.

## NOTES

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

[sadc-cae.ca](http://sadc-cae.ca)



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