



Environmental Stewardship Fact Sheet

In recent years, the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority has undertaken a number of green initiatives to help reduce the organization’s environmental imprint, while providing a more sustainable border crossing for local residents and travelers.



This effort has included various activities to reduce energy consumption, manage stormwater runoff, limit vehicle idling, encourage green transportation alternatives at the crossing (bicycles), conduct tree plantings and adjacent parkland cleanups, improve design codes for new construction, as well as embrace and promote expedited traveler crossing technologies.



Energy-Efficiency

-In 2009, traditional Peace Bridge structure lighting was upgraded to an extensive (“Bridge in Light”) light emitting diode (LED) system, which utilizes roughly 25% less energy than standard fixtures.

-The PBA is also in the process of modernizing HVAC systems within the Customs plazas, including installation of efficient units and associated energy-recovery systems. Current air-conditioning units are also being replaced with *Energy Star*-certified devices.

-Efforts are also underway to reduce fuel consumption by limiting Authority maintenance fleet vehicle usage. Several “fuel-sipper” golf carts have been purchased for general transit amongst the facilities.



Eco-Friendly Purchasing

-The PBA continues to increase purchases of green cleaning and janitorial supplies, including soaps, paper products, and other materials. The use of salt and sand on the bridge structure for deicing has been discontinued in favor of greener deicing options.



Stormwater Management

-The Authority voluntarily adopted “best management” stormwater practices in order to improve the quality of surface runoff into the Upper Niagara River. This effort includes a \$1.3 million bridge scupper and water collection system to eliminate direct flows from the bridge into the river.



Green Transportation Options

-To promote walking and bicycling as a welcome mode of travel across the Peace Bridge, an extensive “Bike to the Bridge” campaign was launched to promote these green transportation options. The campaign includes crossing education and a policy of no tolls for bicyclists or pedestrians. This positive effort was even recognized with a citation from the *League of American Bicyclists*!

Did you know?

The Peace Bridge utilizes a \$1.3 million bridge scupper and water collection system to properly manage stormwater and eliminate direct flows from the bridge into the Niagara River.

“Bridge in Light”

New Light-Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs installed on the Peace Bridge use approximately 25% less energy than traditional light fixtures.

“Bike to the Bridge”

The PBA continues to encourage green transportation options at the bridge crossing and therefore charges no tolls for pedestrian or bicyclist travel!



Recycling

-All paper, cardboard, batteries, and fluorescent light tubes are collected and recycled, while lawn cuttings, branches, and other natural debris is removed from the grounds and transported to the *Niagara Parks Commission's* compost heap on Niagara Parkway.



Emissions & Congestion Reduction

-Since 2001, the PBA has participated in the "Spare the Air" emissions reduction program, which implements idle-reduction activities and educational outreach to motor coaches and transport trucks utilizing the Peace Bridge. By adhering to the program's motto – "working in partnership for a healthier environment" – the effort has led to measurable improvements in vehicle emissions, including an 8% idling compliance increase for motor coaches, and a 47% idling compliance increase for transport trucks. These improved compliance figures equate to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions along the Niagara corridor of roughly 27,000 tons.

-As the only Can-Am border crossing equipped with the *E-ZPass* program, the Peace Bridge offers a more-efficient toll experience for motorists by reducing booth lineup congestion. Successful marketing of the program to customers has also helped achieve high-penetration rates amongst bridge-users, including roughly 75% *E-ZPass* usage rates for trucks, and 32% rates for passenger vehicles.

-The Peace Bridge utilizes both the *NEXUS* and *FAST* programs, which offer expedited border crossings for pre-approved travelers and commercial carriers. Both programs encourage faster Customs processing, resulting in less congestion at inspection booths.

-A process has been underway for several years to make all Authority facilities "Freon-free" through the use of "eco-friendlier" R-410A refrigerant. Freon is linked to Ozone depletion and health concerns.



Parklands Beautification, Cleanup, and Restoration

-Every spring the PBA conducts its annual "Earth Day" and "Bridge in Bloom" programs, which involve parkland cleanups, community partnerships, and the planting of several thousand plants, shrubs, and trees throughout the bridge grounds in order to create a more welcoming and green environment for residents and travelers.

-The Authority has contributed over \$2.5 million towards restoration of Buffalo's Front Park and various sections of the Niagara Parkway.

Did you know?

The Peace Bridge is the only border crossing between Canada and the United States equipped with *E-ZPass*®.

This feature reduces idling, congestion, and shortens travel time for motorists!

"Spare the Air"

For over ten years the PBA has participated in a formal emissions reduction program that has helped eliminate over 27,000 tons of greenhouse gas!

"Bridge in Bloom"

Every spring the Authority embarks on an extensive landscaping and natural beautification effort to plant thousands of flowers, shrubs, and trees throughout Peace Bridge lands.



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