



# Virginia Green Attractions



Profile:

## Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center



Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia’s campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia’s tourism industry. **Virginia Green Attractions** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This attraction has met the established “core activities” for **Green Attractions** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests. Below is a list of this attraction’s “green” activities that guests can expect.

### Virginia Aquarium

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center houses over 700,000 gallons of aquariums and a 3D IMAX® Theater. The Bay and Ocean Pavilion features horseshoe crabs, sea turtles, sharks, stingrays and other ocean dwellers. A Marsh Pavilion features river otters, snakes, and an outdoor bird aviary. There is also a 1/3 mile nature trail, daily programs, and hands-on experiences. The Aquarium is committed to educating the public about Virginia’s marine environment and inspiring conservation of wild animals and wild places. Its Green Team promotes environmentally responsible and sustainable operations, and awareness about green resources and practices in support of the Aquarium’s conservation mission.



**Virginia Green Activities.** When visiting the Virginia Aquarium, you can expect the following practices:

#### CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Attractions

- Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Attractions must provide highly-visible recycling opportunities for guests.
  - Aluminum Cans, Glass, Steel Cans, Grease, Plastic, Office Paper, Toner Cartridges, Newspaper, Cardboard, Packing Supplies, Batteries, Electronics
  - Equipment
  - Mascot, Sandy the Sea Turtle, brands recycling efforts
  - Tracking overall waste bills and quantities
  - Purchasing and designing cups to promote effective recycling
  - Effective food inventory control to minimize wastes
  - Locally grown, organic and sustainable-grown produce and other foods
  - Filtering grease
  - Non-bleached napkins and coffee filters



- Use 2-sided copying, electronic correspondence and forms, recycled content paper and toilet tissue
- Use "Green" cleaners, least toxic materials, and latex paint
- Purchase durable furniture and equipment
- Preventive maintenance on all vehicles and equipment

**Minimize/Eliminate Styrofoam.** Attractions are encouraged to minimize or eliminate the use of Styrofoam cups and plates in favor of products that are bio-based, paper, or recyclable.

- Use bio-compostable tableware and cups and do not use straws
- Disposable containers made from bio-based, compostable materials
- Food service provider, Sodexo, selected for green initiatives

**Water Efficiency.** Attractions should have a "plan" for conserving and using water efficiently.

- Tracking overall water usage and wastewater
- Preventive maintenance on drips and leaks
- Water-flow metering to discover leaks and areas of high use
- Low flow toilets
- Effective landscape management plan
- Cisterns and drip-line irrigation and rain barrels in progress
- Effective storm water management
- Minimization of impervious areas
- Vegetative buffers around streams and ponds



**Energy Conservation.** Attractions must have a "plan" that encourages energy conservation and efficiency.

- Tracking overall energy bills
- High Efficiency Heating and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Use of natural lighting and lighting sensors
- High efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps

**Green Events Package.** Attractions should be able to at least provide recycling when they host special events.

- Annual "Trash Bash" Event highlights recycling efforts and environmental stewardship

For more information on **Virginia Aquarium**, see [www.virginiaaquarium.com](http://www.virginiaaquarium.com) or contact [Fish@VirginiaAquarium.com](mailto:Fish@VirginiaAquarium.com).

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen).



**Virginia Green** is a partnership supported by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Tourism Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

