



Virginia Green Attractions

Profile:



Virginia Zoo Norfolk, 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 Zoo

"The Virginia Zoo is a zoological park that serves people, animals and the environment through programs that emphasize recreation, education and conservation."

Green Statement: "Our culture is to practice environmentally responsible actions as part of our overall commitment to protecting wildlife and habitats."

CORE ACTIVITIES for all *Virginia Green Attractions*



CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Attractions

- Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green facilities must recycle and are highly encouraged to maintain a comprehensive recycling program. This facility pledges that they:
 - Recycle: glass, aluminum cans, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, cardboard, packing supplies, batteries, electronic equipment
 - Use newspaper to line kennels and carriers for animals
 - Track overall waste bills
 - Compost food waste and other compostables
 - Have an effective food inventory control to minimize waste
 - Purchase locally grown produce and other foods
 - Purchase organic and "sustainably-grown" foods
 - Use reusable dishware and glassware to minimize use of disposables
 - Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
 - Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk
 - Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
 - Purchase recycled-content paper towels and toilet paper
 - Make 2-sided copies/ printed materials
 - Use electronic correspondence and forms
 - Use "green" cleaners that are dispensed in bulk
 - Have installed high efficiency hand-dryers in restrooms
 - Purchase durable equipment and furniture
 - Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
 - Use latex paints that are low VOC

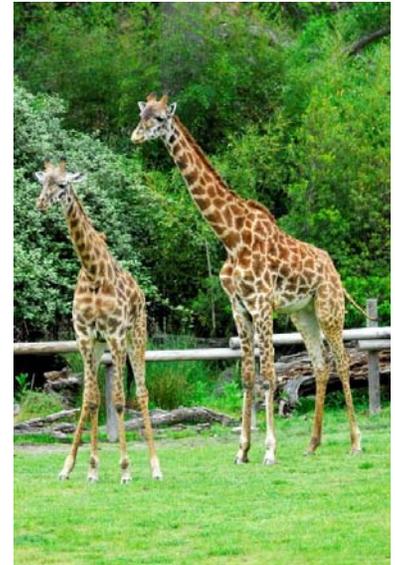
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use a last-in/first-out inventory and labeling system
- Use less toxic materials
- Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- All horticulture gardens and landscaping is managed organically
- Manage an on-grounds composting bin and use it to help educate visitors about at-home composting

Styrofoam/Disposables Minimization. Participants are encouraged to minimize use of all disposables and eliminate the use of Styrofoam products for take-out and left-overs. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable containers made from bio-based materials, recycled content paper, and that are compostable and/or recyclable

Water Conservation. The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall water usage and wastewater
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have low flow toilets
- Sweep animal stalls instead of hosing them out to save gallons of water daily
- Have an effective landscape management plan which utilize drought tolerant species, metering and rain gauges, and minimizes lawn areas
- Have an effective stormwater management plan including: rain gardens, pervious pavement
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds
- Irrigated gardens have a drip-line system which is shut off during rain events
- Have three rain gardens to clean and absorb storm water
- Maintain a large "dog house" with a green roof (Eco-Garden)
- Work in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to nurture oyster beds around the Lafayette River shoreline bordering the zoo
- Recently undertook a large project to restore wetlands along the river shoreline by removing invasive plants and restoring 9,000 natural trees, grasses, shrubs and herbaceous plants



Energy Conservation. The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Have had an energy audit to identify efficiency opportunities
- Have an "energy management system" in place to track and meter energy usage
- Evaluate existing ovens and other kitchen equipment for energy efficiency
- Use:
 - compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
 - high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T5s and T8s)
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Use natural lighting and keep lights turned off when not needed
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Use occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights
- Use directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas

Green Events Package. The facility must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided. This facility pledges that they:

- Promote the availability of “green meetings/conferences” in marketing packages
- Put recycling barrels at the event sites so guests can properly dispose of plastic and other items
- Most private events held in open air tents, so there is a limited amount of electricity used

For more information on **Virginia Zoo**, see www.virginiazoo.com or contact **Annie Vogt** at anne.vogt@norfolk.gov or **757-441-2374**.

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen or www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

