



## Virginia Green Attractions Profile:

# MOUNT VERNON



*Discover the Real George Washington*  
Mount Vernon, Virginia

"Mount Vernon, the beloved estate of George and Martha Washington, is the most popular historic home in America. Owned and maintained by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, Mount Vernon educates people throughout the world about the life and legacies of George Washington, so that his example of character and leadership will continue to inform and inspire future generations."

**Green Statement:** "On April 29, 2009, Mount Vernon's board approved the following green statement: 'The Association resolves to support and encourage green initiatives in order to reduce our environmental impact.' This broad directive was meant to stimulate conversation, analysis, and action. So, on June 4, 2009, Mount Vernon officially established a 'Green Team' of staff that meets regularly to brainstorm creative solutions and make sound recommendations on how to reduce Mount Vernon's environmental footprint."



The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association is 'going green' not only because it is the right thing to do for the environment, but also because it is a great opportunity to follow George Washington's example of sustainability and resourcefulness."

Other noteworthy "Green" initiatives:

- Tree Planting – Mount Vernon plants hundreds of plants and trees each year (approximately twice the amount of plants and trees we remove).
- The Viewshed – For more than 50 years, Mount Vernon has been committed to preserving the natural habitat along the Potomac River in Maryland in order to preserve the view from George Washington's Mansion (a huge portion of an 80-square mile viewshed has been preserved).
- Rare Breeds – Mount Vernon is one of America's leading sanctuaries for rare breeds (preserving several of George Washington's farm breeds).
- Gardening – Mount Vernon maintains extensive gardens. The vegetation from these gardens are used in our restaurant, given to local charities, or composted.
- Green Team – Mount Vernon has a "green team" that regularly monitors our organizational footprint and affects positive change. The Green Team also publishes a bimonthly electronic newsletter to educate staff.

### CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Attractions

- Recycling.** Virginia Green facilities must have highly-visible locations/containers that provide the opportunity for guests to recycle aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, or other disposable products purchased at the facility. Recycling of cardboard, plastic, paper, and composting of waste foods is highly encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:
  - Offer the opportunity for guests to recycle: glass, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, maps, brochures, handouts

- Also recycle: steel cans, newspaper, office paper, toner cartridges, cardboard, fluorescent lamps, batteries, electronic equipment, motor oil, grease, mineral spirits, antifreeze

**Minimize the use of disposable food service products.** The facility is required to minimize the use of disposable food service products and maximize the use of food service products that are recyclable or compostable in the food service area. When disposable food service items are used, the facility is encouraged to use products that are made from bio-based or renewable resources, and to provide for the collection / recycling/ composting of food service items disposed of on the premises. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable foodservice items that are made from bio-based, renewable materials (corn, bamboo, potato starch, sugarcane, etc.)
- Use disposable foodservice items that are made with recycled content
- Currently use bio-based cups and recycled content paper products for all events and public programming
- Continue to reduce the amount of disposable food service products that do not fall into the above categories

**Reduce solid waste.** The facility must be actively working to reduce its solid waste generation. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall solid waste costs
- Have a numeric goal to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill

*Kitchen (or during meetings/events)*

- Recycle fryer grease
- Donate excess food from events
- Compost food waste and other compostables
- Have an effective food inventory control system to minimize waste

*Dining room (or during meetings/events)*

- Use cloth napkins
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk
- Use water pitchers to minimize the use of single-use bottles

*Restrooms*

- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Use high-efficiency hand-dryers
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper

*Office*

- Remove facility and staff names from junk mail lists when possible
- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Reuse or donate shipping and packing supplies (peanuts, bubble wrap, etc.)
- Purchase recycled paper with a high-percentage recycled content
- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible

*Buildings and grounds*

- Use green cleaning products that are dispensed in bulk
- Install carpet with sustainable or recycled content and low-VOC adhesives
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Use latex low or no-VOC paints
- Reuse paint thinners
- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents (required by law)
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

- Compost a significant amount of garden debris, leaves, and other natural materials

**Use water efficiently.** The facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its water use. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall water usage and wastewater costs

*Activities indoors*

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have installed:
  - High efficiency dishwashers
  - Automatic faucets or toilets in public restrooms
- Use microfiber technology mops

*Activities outdoors*

- Have landscaping that utilizes native species
- Use rain gauges and water meters and only irrigate when necessary
- Have minimized our lawn area
- Have installed rain gardens to manage storm water
- Have minimized impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)
- Have installed a green roof
- Have installed cisterns
- Have installed drip line irrigation
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers



**Conserve energy.** The facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its energy use. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Have established a numeric goal to reduce energy usage over time

*Heating and cooling*

- Have individual thermostats for each room; ensure they are correctly adjusted
- Have installed ceiling fans
- Have installed ENERGY STAR-rated windows and doors
- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have installed a high efficiency HVAC system
- Keep office doors and windows closed if HVAC system is on

*Lighting*

- Use natural lighting
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Use occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Have installed high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T-5 and T-8)
- Have installed LED Exit Signs
- Have installed directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas
- Have adopted a policy/practice to minimize the use of lighting during night cleaning

*Appliances and electronic devices*

- Use ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (commercial kitchens, heating and cooling, consumer electronics)

*Transportation-related energy use*

- Use alternative fuel, hybrid-electric, or electric vehicles

*Building construction and renovation*

- Will achieve LEED certification on all new construction

- 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
    - Follow environmentally-sensitive catering practices (regularly use a "green" caterer), provide environmentally-sensitive event spaces, maximize use of electronic communications, and maximize recycling.
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For more information on George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, see [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org) or contact Jamie Bosket at [greenteam@mountvernon.org](mailto:greenteam@mountvernon.org) or 703-799-8606.

**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.

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

