



VirginiaGreenTravel.org

2013 Virginia Green Travel Star Awards Green Travel Leader



maple ave
eclectic • american • cuisine
r e s t a u r a n t

Maple Avenue Restaurant

When we first heard about Virginia Green we were elated to see the amount of work that had already been done and the vision to do so much more. We immediately wanted to be a part of this movement through our tiny 9 table restaurant in Vienna, VA: Maple Ave Restaurant.

We were convinced that a town that is so environmentally friendly would have an endless list of Virginia Green participants. We were shocked to find out that we would be the first to actually apply and be part of the Virginia Green program. Which only meant one thing: we had to motivate our town to be part of the movement. If our 9 table restaurant (we are the smallest restaurant in our town by far) can do it, why not others. Here is how we approached it:

- Government officials: we attended several town council meetings in which we shared our experience with the Virginia Green program and asked for support from the town to get more businesses involved.
- Began a recycling program at Maple Ave and shared with town council that this is not required and we believe it should be a requirement. We have seen a lot more recycling bins around town.
- We have blueberry bushes, lemongrass, herbs, and radishes growing in front of our restaurant. Guests are welcome to take whatever they like.
- We even grew tomatoes on our tiny roof and hosted "herb exchanges". We held "herb exchanges" every other Saturday, in which we invited everyone from the town to come, meet neighbors, drink a cup of coffee and exchange all their harvests from their gardens. It was quite a hit and we hope to continue this next year.
- In 2011, the town council created a "green business recognition" after hearing of all of our efforts to be green and we were the first and only recipients of that award. This year 2013, the town council recognized 3 businesses for their green efforts: a paint store, a mom and pop market and a coffee shop. This makes us so happy to see that other business owners are joining this movement and placing an emphasis on being green.
- In terms of cost savings I think that we have a bigger impact as we try our best to source from local sustainable farms, feeding the local economy.

We have definitely seen progress but we are far from where we need to be. Our commitment does not waver; it only gets stronger and stronger as we see more neighbors join us. We are currently working on opening a second restaurant in which we made sure to contract a LEED architectural firm. Our lead architect knows the importance of being green and has used sustainable practices throughout the entire construction/building of our new restaurant.

Visit the Maple Avenue Restaurant's Virginia Green profile at:
<http://www.virginia.org/Listings/Dining/MapleAveRestaurant/>

Virginia Green is run through a partnership between:



www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx
www.virginia.org/green/