

## Virginia Green Visitor Center Profile:

# Blue Ridge Music Center Galax, Virginia



A Visitor Center that celebrates the historical and cultural significance of the music of the Blue Ridge Mountains and region. Plans for the Blue Ridge Music Center began almost twenty years ago when the city of Galax, Virginia, long known for its link to traditional and old-time music, gave one thousand acres of land to the Blue Ridge Parkway for the purpose of building a music center devoted to the preservation and interpretation of regional music. The first phase of the project was completed three years ago, and, in 2005, the

interpretive facility opened. Throughout the summer months, performances by national and regional bands have filled the arena each weekend. Doc Watson, Ricky Skaggs, Del McCoury and others have taken the stage of the Blue Ridge Music Center. The National Council for the Traditional Arts, the Parkway partner at this facility, keeps details posted about upcoming events at their web site, <http://www.ncta.net>.



### GREEN ACTIVITIES

**Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green facilities must recycle Glass Bottles and are highly encouraged to maintain a comprehensive recycling program. This facility pledges that they:

- Offer the opportunity for guests to recycle: glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, steel cans, newspaper, office paper
- Recycle: office paper, printer/toner cartridges, cardboard, fluorescent lamps, batteries, electronic equipment

**Minimization of Disposables.** Participants are encouraged to minimize use of all disposables. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable foodservice items that are made with recycled content

**Solid Waste Reduction.** The facility must have a plan for actively working to reduce its solid waste generation. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall waste bills

#### *Dining Room (or meetings/events)*

- Use disposable foodservice items that are made with recycled content
- Use cloth napkins
- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- 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*

- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Purchase recycled paper with a high-percentage recycled content
- Make double-sided copies/ printed materials
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible

#### *Buildings and Grounds*

- Use "green" cleaning products that are dispensed in bulk
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Use latex or no-VOC paints
- Re-use paint thinners
- Properly recycle/dispose of thinners and solvents
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

**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

#### *Activities indoors*

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have installed:
  - High efficiency dishwashers
  - Low flow restrictors on faucets
  - Low flow toilets
  - Automatic faucets or toilets in public restrooms

#### *Activities outdoors*

- Have an effective landscape management plan that utilize native species, metering and rain gauges, and minimizes lawn areas
- Have an effective stormwater management plan including the minimization of impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)
- Have installed rain barrels

**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 a numeric goal of how much they want to reduce their energy usage over time
- Calculate the environmental impacts of the facility's energy usage by using a pollution calculator

#### *Heating and cooling*

- Have individual thermostats for each room/area and ensure they are correctly adjusted
- Use:
  - ceiling fans
  - ENERGY STAR-rated windows and doors

- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Keep office doors and windows closed if HVAC system is on

#### *Lighting*

- Use:
  - natural lighting
  - lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
  - occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
- Have installed LED Exit Signs
- Have installed directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor

#### *Appliances and electronic devices*

- Use ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (commercial kitchens, heating and cooling, consumer electronics)
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment (computers, monitors, copiers, printers, etc.)
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off fans, computers, monitors and other devices in unoccupied rooms at the end of the workday or when otherwise not being used

**Support Virginia Green.** Pledge to promote the efforts of Virginia Green to clients, members and staff and encourage them to join or do business with Virginia Green participants. This facility pledges that they:

- Display the Virginia Green certificate prominently in their facility / offices and use the Virginia Green window decals.

For more information on the **Blue Ridge Music Center**, see [www.blueridgemusiccenter.org](http://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org) or contact Mike Molling at [Michael\\_Molling@nps.gov](mailto:Michael_Molling@nps.gov) or Lisa Davis at [Lisa\\_Davis@nps.gov](mailto:Lisa_Davis@nps.gov).

**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green Visitor and Welcome Centers** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This attraction has met the established "core activities" for **Green Visitor and Welcome Centers** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests.

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

