



Virginia Green Conference Centers Profile:



Blue Ridge Events Center

1 Pleasant Valley Road
Harrisonburg

"Blue Ridge Events in Harrisonburg caters to events both in the corporate and social markets. We host events such as Meetings, Conferences, Trade Shows, Gala dinners and Annual Dinners. In regards to Social Events, we host Weddings, Communion, Anniversaries, Prom Nights and also birthdays.

Conveniently located just off of Interstate 81, we are in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. We're a mere two miles from James Madison University's campus, and a five minute drive to Rockingham Memorial Hospital. Being one of few Conference Centers in Virginia to offer EV charging services, we are the perfect place to charge up while your event is in action.

At The Blue Ridge Events Center, our goal is to make each event a wonderful success. Our experienced staff will ensure that your special occasion turns out exactly the way you have dreamed.

We offer quality food served with pride and the type of service you would expect from a first class banquet facility, with accommodations for 5 to 250 guests.

We've created several all-inclusive packages designed for any occasion, including several new 'green' packages to accommodate groups wanting to plan sustainable events. Our event planner and staff will guide you step by step from the very beginning stages all the way to the end of your event."

We offer green event planning services such as, local fair trade coffee service, projector screens and whiteboards instead of flipcharts, internet advertising of the event, display of event times and date on our led sign instead of mailouts and flyers, recycling bins for during and after events, non-disposables during catered events, locally grown food as often as possible for catering, a convenient lodging option within walking distance to the event hall, an electric car charging station.

CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Conference Centers

Recycling. All conference centers must have highly-visible locations/containers that provide the opportunity for guests to recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Recycling of steel cans, cardboard, office paper, and composting of waste foods are encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Provide the opportunity for guests to recycle: glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, newspaper, office paper
- Have recycling bins located: in the lobby and rooms.
- Also recycle office paper, toner cartridges, and cardboard

Minimization of Disposable Food Service Products. All conference centers are 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, you are 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:

- Do not use any disposable containers, dishware, cutlery, or cups

☑ Solid Waste Reduction. All conference centers must be actively working to reduce their solid waste generation. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall solid waste costs

Kitchen (or meetings/events)

- Donate excess food from events

Dining room (or 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

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.)
- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible

Building and grounds

- Re-use paint thinners
- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents (required by law)
- Minimize 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:
 - Low flow toilets (use 1.6 gallons per flush or less)
 - Use microfiber technology mops

Activities outdoors

- Have an effective landscape management plan which minimizes lawn areas
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers



☑ 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 within the past 12 months
- Calculate the environmental impacts of the facility's energy usage by using a pollution calculator
- Use ENERGY STAR's Benchmarking Tools for the Hospitality Industry

Heating and cooling

- Have individual thermostats for each room/area

- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Keep office doors and windows closed in HVAC system is on

Lighting

- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- 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

- Light dimmers are installed, and no heating/cooling during non use

- 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

For more information on Blue Ridge Events Center, see www.BlueRidge-Events.com or contact Erica Allman at BlueRidgeEvents@gmail.com or 540-999-8389.

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

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see www.viriniagreentravel.org or <http://staging.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx>.



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

