



# Virginia Commonwealth University Student Centers Richmond

*Virginia Green* is the Commonwealth of Virginia’s campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia’s tourism industry. *Virginia Green* has established “core activities” specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, *Virginia Green* encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations; and this profile provides a full list of all their “green” activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

### VCU Student Centers

VCU University Student Commons and Activities (USC&A) serves as a center for activities, services, meetings, events and the social life of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and their guests. University Student Commons & Activities manages three student centers on the VCU campuses – the University Student Commons on the Monroe Park campus and the Hunton Student Center on the MCV campus.

**Green Statement:** “Initiated by the Commonwealth and the University, the University Student Commons and Activities department and each of our student centers are actively and aggressively pursuing, whenever realistic and plausible, engaging the “Green” concept and conservation efforts.”

### CORE ACTIVITIES for Conference Centers

“☑” This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Conference Centers. Participants self-certify that these activities are in place and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to **VCU Student Centers** can expect the following practices:

**Recycling and Waste Reduction.** All conference centers must provide for recycling at their events. Aluminum can and plastic bottle recycling are a must. Recycling of steel cans, cardboard, office paper, and composting of waste foods are encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Recycle: glass, aluminum cans, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, newspaper, cardboard, packing supplies, fluorescent lamps, batteries, electronic equipment
- Provide recycling bins in public areas around the property, in all event rooms, and in loading dock area
- Track overall waste bills
- Have numeric goal to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill
  - meetings and events*
- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
  - restrooms*
- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Use high-efficiency hand-dryers
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper
  - office/purchasing*
- Encourage suppliers to minimize packaging and other waste materials

- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Make 2-sided copies / printed materials
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
  - building and grounds,EMS System*
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Use latex paints
- (Do not use paint thinners)
- Properly recycle and/or disposal of solvents (required by EPA-RCRA)
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use less toxic materials
- The “integrated pest management” (IPM) is gradually being integrated into the University
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers in landscaping

**Styrofoam elimination and reduction of disposables.** Virginia Green Conference centers are encouraged to eliminate or minimize the use of Styrofoam-based products and to use alternative disposables that are made of natural products and/or are bio-degradable. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable containers that are:
  - Made from bio-based materials
  - Made from recycled content paper
  - Compostable
  - 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
- Have a numeric goal to reduce water consumption over time
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Use water-flow metering to discover leaks and areas of high use
- Have:
  - low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
  - automatic faucets or toilets in public restrooms

**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
- Have an “energy management system” in place to track and meter energy usage
- Have considered upgrading to an EnergyStar Commercial Kitchen Package
- Use:
  - compact fluorescent light bulbs in most rooms and in canned lighting
  - LED Exit Signs
  - high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T5s and T8s)
  - high-efficiency hand-dryers
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Use natural lighting
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Use occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights
- Purchase EnergyStar-rated computers, copiers, and appliances when possible and cost effective.
- Have thermal-rated windows and insulation

**Green Events Package.** Virginia Green conference centers 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.

---

For more information and booking events at the VCU **student centers**, go online to [www.usca.vcu.edu](http://www.usca.vcu.edu) .

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



*Virginia Green* is the Commonwealth's campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

