



## Virginia Green Conference Centers



# The Marine Science Consortium Wallops Island

"The Marine Science Consortium is a non-profit, residential environmental learning center and field station that provides hands-on, place-based education in a field setting. Located near Chincoteague and Assateague Islands on Virginia's scenic Eastern Shore, The Marine Science Consortium is the perfect location for beach excursions, salt marsh explorations, or simply meeting in a vibrant educational atmosphere.

As an environmental learning center, The Marine Science Consortium is committed to "walking our talk". We promote sustainable practices as part of our education effort so that we can give our participants a take home message regarding ways they can make positive lifestyle changes.

Some of our sustainability actions include:

- We purchase local products from local suppliers whenever possible.
- We purchase organic and sustainable foods when possible.
- We provide a variety of wildlife habitat on site
- We educate customers regarding sustainable practices and natural resources via signage, written material and programs offered by our education staff."



## GREEN ACTIVITIES



**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:

- Use disposable foodservice items made from bio-based materials, renewable materials
- Use disposable foodservice items that are made with recycled content
- Use very little disposable food service products, however when we must, we use recycled content paper products that can be composted



**Recycling and Waste Reduction.** 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. Additionally, conference centers must be actively working to reduce their solid waste generation. This facility pledges that they:

- Provide the opportunity for guests to recycle: glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, steel cans, newspaper, office paper

- Have recycling bins located: in multiple high traffic areas around our campus including our Education Center, residence halls, and classroom buildings
- Also recycle office paper, toner cartridges, cardboard, batteries, electronic equipment
- Track overall solid waste costs
- Have a numeric goal to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill

Kitchen (or meetings/events)

- Donate excess food from events
- Have an effective food inventory control to minimize waste

Dining room (or meetings/events)

- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- Use water pitchers to minimize the use of single-use bottles

Restrooms

- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- 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

Building 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
- 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



**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 faucets and showerheads (use less than 2.5 gallons per minute)
  - Low flow toilets (use 1.6 gallons per flush or less)

Activities outdoors

- Have an effective landscape management plan which utilizes native species,
- Have an effective storm water management plan which includes pervious pavement and minimization of impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)
- 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 established a numeric goal to reduce energy usage over time

Heating and cooling

- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Have installed ENERGY STAR-rated windows and doors
- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Keep office doors and windows closed in 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 installed high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T5s and T8s)
- Have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
- 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)
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment (computers, monitors, copiers, printers, etc.)
- Have adopted a policy / practice to turn off fans, computers, monitors and other device in unoccupied rooms at the end of the workday or when otherwise not being used

Building Construction and Renovation

- Achieved LEED certification as a certified building
- While our Education Center is the only LEED Certified building on campus, the same materials and systems were installed in our other new building so that we could model sustainable building practices across our campus



**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
  - Meeting spaces in our Education Center classrooms, meeting rooms, and labs
  - Food service in our cafeteria and homemade refreshments in the meeting room
  - Residence hall accommodations that include a multi-day use linen service
  - Educational programs regarding our LEED Certification as well as natural and cultural history of the region
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For more information on The Marine Science Consortium see [www.msconsortium.org](http://www.msconsortium.org) or contact Amber L. Parker at [execdirector@msconsortium.org](mailto:execdirector@msconsortium.org) or 757-824-5636.

**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote 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. The program has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism; these practices are the minimum requirements for participation in the program, but encourages participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations.

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).

