



Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Richmond Celebrates Earth Day By Improving Recycling at Local Elementary School

On Earth Day, children from Fox Elementary in Richmond attended an assembly that was hosted by **Janet Planet** and **The Lorax**. They learned all about why it is so important to recycle and students and teachers played a recycling trivia game entitled, "Are you smarter than a Lorax?"

Finally, they celebrated Earth Day with the announcement of their new school-wide recycling program and the gift that they had received from a local business. The **Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Richmond** donated 55 new recycling containers to the school so that every classroom, the cafeteria, and all activity rooms might have a clearly marked blue recycling container.



HGI's General Manager **John Cario** and Kitchen Supervisor **Barbara Overton** originally attended the PTA last week to present the gift. The donation was made in support of the HGI's sustainability program and their recently made goals to reach out and assist environmental causes in the community. The Hilton Garden Inn is a certified member of the state's [Virginia Green](#) program and boasts an aggressive recycling effort that includes the composting of all food wastes.



The donation of the recycling containers was also a registered project **with Keep Virginia Beautiful** in honor of that organization's 60th anniversary. Their year-long campaign challenges Virginia businesses all citizen to "[GIVE 60](#)" minutes of their time towards recycling, clean-ups, and beautification of Virginia.

Finally, the Earth Day assembly concluded as students paraded back to their rooms carrying their new recycling containers. What a great way to celebrate Earth Day!

Additional facts about Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Richmond, Virginia Green, and Keep Virginia Beautiful.

- HGI is a certified green hotel through the state's Virginia Green program. (www.VirginiaGreenTravel.org).
- Virginia Green certifies hotels, restaurants, conference centers, attractions, museums, festivals and events, and other tourism related businesses. Virginia Green has nearly 1400 certified partners.
- Hilton Garden Inn is only hotel in Richmond that is composting all of its food wastes.
- In 2012, HGI:
 - Recycled over 44,000 lbs (22 tons)
 - Collected over 32,000 lbs of food wastes for composting (16 tons)
 - Current landfill diversion rate of 35+%
 - Reduced water use by more than 100,000 gallons (10%)
 - Reduced energy usage by 750,000 kwh (24%)
 - Carbon footprint reduction of more than 25%
- This outreach project is in support of its mission to help improve the community and in support of Keep Virginia Beautiful and its 60th Anniversary (www.kvb60.org).

Contact Information:

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