



“The Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)6 non-profit organization. Our mission is to facilitate healthy economic growth in our region. The Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of commerce decided to go green because we wanted to show our members our commitment to making our region a healthier and better place to work and live. We realized that we could set an example for our community and be a supporting organization to help others improve their impact on our region.”

Green Statement: “We purchase most of our print material from, Chamber member Stafford Printing, a local printer who is committed to the environment. They have switched to digital printing (saving waste), they purchase recycled paper from the U.S., and most of their stocks are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and Sustainable Forest Initiative. Stafford Printing also uses eco-friendly inks that are biodegradable and the leftover ink is recycled in barrels.

We no longer use water bottles, but have switched to a Brita filter on our sinks and have pitchers of water for our meetings. The Chamber has installed two wireless projectors to ensure that we do not have to print materials such as agendas and handouts for meetings. We use the projectors to decrease the amount of paper we use and waste that we generate. The Chamber has also stopped purchasing polystyrene cups for our coffee and we had each member donate a mug that we wash and reuse for meetings. The Chamber also has three sets of trashcans in each conference room one for recycling, one for other waste and one for aluminum cans.

We hosted Tom Griffin from Virginia Green to educate our members about the environment and becoming certified Virginia Green. We recently launched a Green Initiative Advisory Committee that is working to host more green events to educate our community. This year at our State of the Chamber the Green Initiative Advisory Committee handed out a new award where we partnered with Marstel-Day. This award was called the Marstel-Day Green Innovation Award and was given to a member that showed outstanding environmental stewardship. The winner received \$1,500 to further its environmental activities. ”



CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Supporting Organizations

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

- Encourage clients who are in the tourism industry to join Virginia Green.
- Include a Virginia Green feature in its newsletter or other publication.
- Display its Virginia Green certificate prominently in its facility / offices and use the Virginia Green window decals.
- Use the Virginia Green logo on signage pointing out recycling or other “green” improvements in its facility.
- Highlight its involvement in Virginia Green on its website and have a link to its Virginia Green facility profile.

Green Meetings and Conferences. Provide recycling and make an effort to reduce the use of disposables at meetings and conferences. This partner pledges that they:

- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Do not use any disposable containers, dishware, cutlery, or cups
- Use water pitchers to minimize the use of single-use bottles
- Avoid box lunches by purchasing trays/platters of food instead.

This association leases its office or retail space and has met with the landlord to advise that environmental issues are important to the organization. The association has informed the landlord about Virginia Green and the potential costs and environmental benefits.

Recycling. Virginia Green Travel Association must have highly-visible locations/containers that provide the opportunity for guests to recycle aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, or other disposable products purchased at the facility. Recycling of cardboard, plastic, paper, and composting of waste foods is highly encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Offer the opportunity for guests to recycle: glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans
- Also recycle: newspaper, office paper, toner cartridges, cardboard, batteries, electronic equipment

Reduce solid waste. The facility must be actively working to reduce its solid waste generation. This facility pledges that they:

Office

- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Reuse or donate shipping and packing supplies
- 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

Water Conservation. The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

Activities indoors

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have installed high efficiency dishwashers

Energy Conservation. The facility must have a plan in place that encourages energy conservation and efficiency. This facility pledges that they:

Heating and Cooling

- Have individual thermostats for each room/area

- Keep office doors and windows closed if HVAC system is on

Lighting

- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Have adopted a policy/practice to minimize the use of lighting during night cleaning

Appliances and electronic devices

- 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

For more information on the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce, see www.fredericksburgchamber.org or contact Alexis Neustatter at Alexis@fredericksburgchamber.org or 504-373-9400.

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green Supporting Organizations** pledged to minimize their impacts on the environment. This organization has met the established "core activities" for **Green Supporting Organizations** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests.

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see www.viriniagreentravel.org or <http://www.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.

