

Virginia Green Application Golf Courses

www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen/golf_courses.html



Golf courses are a big part of Virginia's tourism industry. Golf courses are closely tied with their surrounding environment and properly managed facilities can greatly minimize their impacts on the environment through various "best management practices."

Golf courses have many opportunities to minimize their environmental impact by making simple, common-sense changes, almost all of which can save money. Many Virginia facilities have already made significant strides toward "greening."

To Join – 3 Easy Steps

- 1) **Fill Out This Application.** Email or mail the completed checklist to Virginia DEQ at the address listed at the end of the application.
- 2) **Virginia Green Profile.** We will then draft a "profile" of your facility from the information that you submit to us. Once you have approved of the profile, you will officially be a **Virginia Green facility**, and your profile will go on our website and be searchable through the Virginia green tourism website: www.viriniagreentravel.org. You are required to post this profile in your facility where guests can read about your environmental commitments.
- 3) **Promote Yourself as Virginia Green.** We will send you a certificate and window decals for display and encourage you to use the logo on your website, signage, and any printed materials.

FACILITY INFORMATION

Facility Name:			
Address:			
Website:			
Contact Name:			
E-Mail:		Phone:	

Golf course description. Please provide a 1-2 sentence description of your facility. **This statement will be included on your profile.**

Why did your golf course decide to join Virginia Green? Please explain in a few sentences why your facility is committed to pollution prevention. **This statement will be included on your profile.**

Logo & 2 Pictures! Please email us your logo and 2 pictures that you would like for us to include in your profile.

Core Activities are the minimum requirements for Virginia Green. All facilities applying to be accepted into the program must indicate that they meet these general requirements. *Only those applicants that provide additional details on the following pages will be considered for the program. Make sure that any grey text field that is marked (required for Virginia Green) is filled in or your application will not be approved.*

We Pledge that we: (click or mark (X) the box next to the techniques that your facility uses)

- Have and implement a nutrient management plan.** Your facility must have a nutrient management program that has been approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.
 - Minimize the use of pesticides and other chemicals.** Your facility must comply with all regulations regarding the use of pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, and fungicides and have a program in place to minimize their use.
 - Recycle.** Your facility 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 organic waste is highly encouraged as well.
 - Reduce solid waste.** Your facility must be actively working to reduce its solid waste generation.
 - Use water efficiently.** Your facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its water use.
 - Conserve energy.** Your facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its energy use.
 - Educate Golfers & Staff.** Informational materials describing ongoing “green” activities should be placed throughout the facility (signs, scorecards and brochures). In addition, staff must be trained on the overall goals and objectives of the program as well as in their own areas of work.
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Please provide additional detail about your greening activities. These will be included in your facility profile on the web. Please pay special attention to any requirements that are highlighted.

Have and implement a nutrient management plan – we pledge that we:

- Have and implement a nutrient management plan that has been approved by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (**required for Virginia Green**). **Please include a copy of the approval letter from DCR with this application.**
 - The nutrient management plan was developed by a Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner
 - Soil tests are performed at least once every three years for all fertilized areas tees, fairways, roughs, greens, common areas, clubhouse lawns, flower beds, etc.
 - Nutrient uptake is maximized and runoff is reduced by applying the proper rates and controlling the timing of applications.
 - Adjust use of fertilizer to meet site conditions
 - Use of water soluble fertilizers minimized
 - Follow guidelines set forth in *Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria*
<http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/documents/StandardsandCriteria.pdf>

Golf Course Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality

- Use slow-release fertilizers
- Recycle Grass Clippings - when practical clippings are not collected, when collected they are dispersed evenly or composted properly
- Recycle Nutrients from Irrigation Water – Pond water tested for nutrients and fertilizer applications are adjusted accordingly
- Compost Wastes for Reuse - clippings, leaves, ground twigs, etc. are composted and used to add organic matter to soils
- Maintain Water Quality Buffers – No maintenance zones between playing areas and surface water are implemented
- Use Native Plants for Landscaping

Revised 10/11/2011

- Respect Natural Resources – Recognize that golf courses are managed land areas that should complement the natural environment
- Reduce Reliance on Pesticides with sound turf management – Health fertility levels reduce disease pressure and plants can recover from insect injury
- Maintain and Calibrate Application Equipment
- Store Fertilizer Properly – Cool, dry areas with concrete floors and no floor drains
- Schedule Irrigation to Reduce Demands – Large irrigation events are planned for times of least evaporation and energy usage

Minimize the use of pesticides and other chemicals – we pledge that we: **(all required)**

- Comply with all regulations regarding the use of pesticides (including herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, and fungicides) and other chemicals (www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides or 804-786-3798)
 - Have a Certified Commercial Applicator on staff
 - Only allow Certified Commercial Applicators or Registered Technicians to apply pesticides
 - Adhere to **all requirements** of the pesticide label including those in regard to the transport, mixing, loading, application, storage and disposal of pesticide products and containers
 - Keep records of **all** pesticide applications
 - Only use pesticides that are currently registered with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
- Maintain Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each chemical at facility
- Clearly label materials (product name, expiration date, special handling precautions)
- Keep fertilizers, pesticides, and chemicals indoors on a dry, impervious surface

Handling

- Policy in place to not apply pesticides, and fertilizers and other chemicals when weather indicates potential for heavy rains
- Establish “no spray” zones around vegetated buffers and adjacent water features
- Post spill containment measures on-site
- Use only amounts of all landscaping products that are appropriate to site conditions
- Post an emergency response plan that addresses fertilizers, pesticides, chemicals, fuel, paint and solvents. Identify where runoff water flows; how to handle the facility’s specific chemicals; and who to call for help. File with emergency responders.

Golf Course Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality

- Adopt a comprehensive integrated pest management (IPM) program
www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/ipm.htm

Recycling – we pledge that we:

- Have in place clearly marked recycling locations and/or containers. Please check the items that visitors to your facility are able to recycle: **(minimum 2 “guest recyclable” items required)**
 - Glass bottles
 - Plastic bottles
 - Aluminum cans
 - Other:

Other items recycled by the facility:

- Steel cans
- Newspaper
- Office Paper
- Printer/ copy machine toner cartridges
- Cardboard
- Fluorescent lamps (may be required by law)
- Batteries (may be required by law for NiCad and Lead-Acid)
- Electronics equipment – computers, etc (may be required by law)
- Other actions taken related to recycling:

Please identify your recycling vendor(s) or service (the company and/or local government that collects your recyclables) **(required for Virginia Green)**

Solid waste reduction – we pledge that we (*minimum of 3 required*):

- [Track overall solid waste costs](#)
- Have a [numeric goal](#) to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill

Kitchen (or during meetings/events)

- [Recycle fryer grease](#)
- [Donate excess food from events](#)
- [Compost food waste and other compostables](#)
- Have an effective [food inventory control system](#) to minimize waste

Dining room (or during meetings/events)

- Use [cloth napkins](#)
- Use [reusable coffee filters](#)
- Use [non-bleached napkins and coffee filters](#)
- 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](#)
- 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.)
- Use [refillable pens and toner cartridges](#)
- 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](#)

Buildings 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](#)
- [Re-use paint thinners](#)
- Properly [recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents](#) (required by law)
- Perform [preventative maintenance](#) on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Other actions taken to reduce solid waste:

Water conservation – we pledge that we (*minimum of 3 required*):

- [Track overall water usage and wastewater costs](#)
- Have established a [numeric goal to reduce water](#) consumption over time

Activities indoors

- Perform [preventative maintenance](#) to stop drips and leaks
- Use [water-flow metering](#) to discover leaks and areas of high use
- 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)
 - [Waterless urinals](#)
 - [Composting toilets](#)
 - [Automatic faucets or toilets in public restrooms](#)

Revised 10/11/2011

- Use [microfiber technology mops](#)

Activities outdoors

- Have an effective [landscape management plan](#) which includes one or more of the following:
 - Utilizes [native species](#)
 - Utilizes [metering and rain gauges](#)
 - [Minimizes lawn areas](#)
- Have an effective stormwater management plan which includes one or more of the following:
 - [Rain gardens](#)
 - [Pervious pavement](#)
 - [Minimization of impervious areas \(paving, concrete, etc.\)](#)
- Have installed a [green roof](#)
- Have installed [cisterns](#)
- Have installed [rain barrels](#)
- Have installed [drip line irrigation](#)
- Maintain [vegetative buffers](#) around streams and ponds
- Other actions taken related to water conservation & efficiency:

Energy Efficiency – we pledge that we (*minimum of 3 required*):

- [Track overall energy bills](#)
- Have had an [energy audit](#) to identify efficiency opportunities within the past 12 months
- Have established a [numeric goal](#) to reduce energy usage over time
- 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; ensure they are correctly adjusted
- Have installed [ceiling fans](#)
- Have installed [ENERGY STAR-rated windows and doors](#)
- Regularly perform [preventative maintenance on HVAC system](#)
- Have installed a [high efficiency HVAC system](#)
- Keep office doors and windows closed if HVAC system is on
- Have installed [geothermal heating and cooling](#)

Lighting

- Use [natural lighting](#)
- Use [lighting sensors](#) to turn on/off lights
- Use [occupancy sensors](#) to turn on/off lights
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Have installed [high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps](#) (T-5 and T-8)
- Have installed [compact fluorescent light bulbs](#) in all rooms and canned lighting
- Have installed [LED Exit Signs](#)
- 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 devices in unoccupied rooms at the end of the workday or when otherwise not being used
- Have joined ENERGY STAR's [Low Carbon IT Challenge](#)

Transportation-related energy use

- Use [alternative fuel, hybrid-electric, or electric vehicles](#) (not golf carts)
- Use [electric golf carts](#)

Source of energy

- Generate electricity from [photovoltaic solar panels](#)
- Have installed a [solar water heating system](#)
- Generate electricity from a [wind turbine](#)
- Purchase [Green Tags or Renewable Energy Certificates](#) to support new renewable energy resources
- Purchase [Green Power](#) from utility
- Are an EPA [Green Power Partner](#)

Building construction and renovation

- Achieved [LEED certification](#) at the _____ level during the facility's construction
- Are working to or have achieved [LEED-EB \(existing building\) certification](#) through operational changes and renovations
- Earned the [ENERGY STAR label](#) for our building
- Other actions taken related to energy conservation & efficiency:

Educate Staff & Golfers – we pledge that we:

- Train new and current staff regarding green initiatives and how they affect operations at the facility (**required for Virginia Green**)
 - Staff members are able to discuss initiatives with golfers and public
- Provide updates on green initiatives given at all staff meetings
- Include “green” housekeeping and maintenance as part of standard operating procedures
- Designate & train staff to monitor plant health and pest populations
- Have informational signs visible to the public regarding green initiatives taking place at facility (**required for Virginia Green**)
- Have Virginia Green logo, “green” tips, and/or facility “green” initiatives printed on scorecards
- Include Virginia Green logo and/or description of green initiatives on the facility webpage and public relations materials
- Encourage golfers to purchase carbon offsets in the form of tree plantings (offer golfers the opportunity to plant or to purchase a tree to be planted by facility staff on golfer’s behalf)

Other Sustainability Actions (such as purchase locally produced products and supplies, purchase organic or sustainably grown food, protect/ enhance wildlife habitat on property, educate customers about efforts to reduce our environmental impacts, etc.). **This statement will be included on your profile.**

Complete this checklist and email it to us at viriniagreen@deq.virginia.gov

You may also print the completed application and Mail it to:
Virginia Green Program
Virginia DEQ Office of Pollution Prevention
PO Box 1105 Richmond, VA 23240-1105
804-698-4122

Thank you for voluntarily committing to minimize your impact on the environment!

Virginia Green is a partnership program supported by

