

Profile:



Airlie Foundation & Conference Center Warrenton, Virginia

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.

Airlie Foundation & Conference Center

The Airlie Center is a dedicated conference center set amid 2500 secluded rural acres providing a unique environment for the creative exchange of ideas.

Green Statement: Airlie holds itself responsible for the environmental impact of all aspects of its operations and this commitment is reflected in a wide range of green initiatives. When visiting Airlie Center, guests will experience the Center's culture and commitment to the following environmentally green initiatives:



CORE ACTIVITIES for Lodging & Conference Centers

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

☑ **Optional Linen Service.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must have some sort of system in place that allows guests to not have their sheets and towels changed every day.

- Optional linen and towel reuse program: *Bed linens are washed every (3) days for long term guests. Towels are washed upon request by guests*
- Standard procedure is that we do not cloth conference tables. They are IACC approved with privacy panels.
- Guest dry cleaning services are available upon request.
- Local dry cleaner uses an EPA approved dry cleaning machine, uses no harmful spotting agents, and all are bio-degradable.

☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must maintain a comprehensive recycling program and are encouraged to reduce waste generation wherever possible.

Recycling

- Guests recycling opportunities throughout the property.
- Green conference and event packages available.
- Plastic, aluminum, steel, glass, newspapers, office paper, envelopes, sticky notes, phonebooks, cardboard, wood pallets, clothes hangers, protein—kitchen grease and pre- and post-consumer organic waste, bulbs, batteries, toner cartridges, packing materials, ballasts, Freon, automobile oil, batteries/by-products and textiles are recycled.
- Recycling bins are under every desk and in all meeting rooms.
- There are 11 outdoor recycling stations.

Waste Reduction

- Guest rooms have natural soap amenities in recyclable containers.
- Non-toxic soap and cleaners are used property wide.
- Some office papers are reused as note paper.
- Name badges are reused.
- Downed limbs and trees are chipped for mulch, compost piles and firewood for wood burning fireplaces on campus.
- Only Green Seal approved tissue, paper towels and toilet paper is used.
- Office supplies are reused and recycled.
- Electronic key entry for guests rooms:
 - Packets are reused*
 - Literature inserts are reused*
 - Key cards are reusable*
- Old furniture and textiles are reused and/or donated.
- Housekeepers recycle room waste and clothes hangers.
- All common areas in lodging buildings have recycling centers.
- Newspapers are provided only upon request.
- Linens are reused as rags.
- There is a shredder located at the guest services copy machine for recycling secure documents.
- All office papers and paper products meet Green Seal recycled content requirements.
- Conference writing pads and coaster are made with recycled materials.
- We offer electronic registration.
- Forms used internal are designed to be filled out at the computer and transmitted electronically.
- Double-sided printing is the default setting on printers/copiers.
- Housekeepers are instructed not to replace soap, shampoo and other products until they are depleted.
- Where small quantities remain in room amenities bottles, the containers are donated to a local shelter.
- Flower arrangements often incorporate local flora from campus.
- Local Food Project: A 3/4 acre organic culinary garden is within walking distance of the kitchen.
- An average of 4000 lbs. of organic vegetables, herbs and edible flowers are harvested annually.
- 24,000 lbs of kitchen scraps are composted annually for use in the Local Food Project garden.
- Profish- safe seafood program.
- Kitchen has banned swordfish, mako shark, Chilean sea bass, etc...
- Wine is purchased locally and from organic wineries.
- Local vendors for bread, meat, cheeses and produce for private dining preferred.
- Bulk purchasing is practiced.
- Recycled content Green Seal approved paper towels and napkins are used.
- Table centerpieces are reusable.
- Airlie has an arrangement with a local organization, Fauquier Family Shelter, where leftover food is donated.
- Opportunities abound for guests to further their knowledge of our initiatives:
 - Dishes are flagged to indicate organic ingredients.*
 - Posters are placed on mezzanine and frequent tours and seminars are offered to educate guests and staff about sustainable agriculture practices.*
- Can liners for garbage are made from 100% recycled plastic with 10% post consumer waste.
- Use of water pitchers and glasses eliminate disposables in meeting rooms.
- Complimentary gifts are packaged in reusable baskets or environmentally friendly alternatives.
- Integrated pest management system: This program allows us to work closely with our pest elimination company to correct situations that allow pests entry such as: holes in buildings, poorly sealed windows, etc.
- Latex paints are used-oil based paints used only in high traffic areas.
- Grounds maintenance staff uses no toxic pesticides or herbicides-only organic compounds in special situations.



- Smoking is not allowed in any buildings on the property.

Styrofoam/Disposables Minimization. Participants are encouraged to minimize use of all disposables and eliminate the use of Styrofoam products for take-out and left-overs.

- Biodegradable disposable cups are used at water cooler in our exercise room. Cups are made from “bagasse” sugar cane waste fibers.
- No disposable dishes or utensils are used in staff dining room.

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

- Water-flow metering to discover leaks and areas of high use.
- Effective storm water management.
- Minimization of impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)
- Ponds are monitored with a natural approach to preserving sub aquatic vegetation-except in extreme situations.
- Airlie owned and operated well water supply is carefully monitored for quality.
- Natural habitat vegetation is used in landscaping.
- Low-flow toilet conversion throughout property.
- Water saver shower heads throughout property.
- Dishwasher washes only full loads on water efficient setting.
- Food is thawed in walk-in coolers instead of thawing under running water.

Energy Conservation. The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives.

- Vehicle “idling” is not allowed.
- Taxi sharing-when shuttling services are requested is encouraged.
- Coordinated “on campus” shuttling is encouraged.
- Hybrid Vehicles: Replaced (2) gas powered shuttle vans with Hybrids.
- Bicycles are provided for guest as alternative transportation between buildings.
- Campus buildings are within walking distance thus minimizing driving.
- Umbrellas encourage guests to walk even when it is raining.
- Housekeepers and wait-staff observe proper use of curtains to control internal temperatures.
- Preventative maintenance on all vehicles and ground equipment.
- A preventative building maintenance program is employed for all Center “systems”.
- Individual thermostats are in every guest room.
- Housekeepers monitor room temperatures daily.
- Staged HVAC systems are employed and are replaced with the most energy efficient ozone friendly systems with high quality HEPA filters are on all systems.
- 100% liquid propane fireplaces. Other heat sources include liquid propane.
- Programmable digital mercury-free thermostats installed throughout property.
- Programmable thermostats are “preset” to 75° during the warmer months and 58° (unoccupied rooms) and 72° (occupied rooms) during the cooler months, monitored by our Conference Ops. Department.
- Scheduled energy resources-outdoor lighting on timers.
- Office appliances, equipment and lights are tuned off when not in use.
- All buildings/room lights on property are turned off when not in use and are monitored in the evening and early morning by our security.
- Meeting room appliances, equipment and lights are turned off when not in use.
- Natural lighting: Windows are energy efficient double paned with UV coating.
- Double walled EPA approved fuel tanks.
- Compact Fluorescent bulbs used upon replacement throughout campus:
5-year Lighting Plan– to be completed by August 2008
High end, low harmonics/low mercury ballast
- EnergyStar/Energy Saving office equipment is in place.
- Use EnergyStar’s Benchmarking Tools for the Hospitality Industry.
- Water extractor washers are used in Housekeeping to minimize laundry drying time.
- Watt buster auto light switch in public restrooms-product testing to install throughout campus.
- Use of ceiling fans.
- Purchase of “Green Tags” or “Renewable Energy Certificates” to offset the additional cost of using energy from renewable sources.

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.

- Opportunities for groups to further their commitment to environmental improvement, e.g., Carbon Offsets and Green Meeting planning.
- Nature Buffers are left around ponds, meadows, woodland and wetlands to afford habitat for indigenous wildlife.
- Tree Planting Program: 10-15 native species a year are planted at Airlie.
- Airlie reservoir wetland mitigation area- 39 plus species winter waterfowl.
- Airlie is a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat.



For more information on Airlie Foundation & Conference Center, see www.airlie.com or contact Gina Clatterbuck at 540-341-3202 or gclatterbuck@airlie.com

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen or www.VirginiaVreenTravel.org.



Virginia Green is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

