



# Virginia Green Hotels & Lodging Facilities



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## Natural Bridge Historic Hotel & Conference Center Natural Bridge, VA



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**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.

## Natural Bridge Historic Hotel & Conference Center

We are a hotel, conference center, and natural park. We are the proud home of Virginia's Natural Bridge.

We have decided to join Virginia Green to show travelers that we are in the process of becoming one of the state's most environmentally-conscious sites. We are consistently making progress and thinking of new ideas to minimize our footprint here.

We are purchasing local food and produce and are transitioning our Gift Shop into a full Virginia-made store. We are working with local crafters and artisans and are displaying their products as well as having them come to display their talents in demonstrations.

### Virginia Green Activities

#### This facility pledges that they:

##### Offer optional linen service

- Have signage in each guest room explaining the linen reuse procedures
- Change linens only upon request
- Train housekeeping staff on our process for optional linen service
- Minimize the use of bleach and chlorinated chemicals

##### Recycle

- Have in place clearly marked recycling bins or provide convenient drop-off locations for guests to recycle:

- Glass Bottles
- Plastic Bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Steel cans
- Newspaper
- Office paper

Other items recycled by the facility:

- Printer/ copy machine toner cartridges
- Cardboard
- Batteries
- Electronics equipment such as computers, etc.

### **Reduce solid waste**

- Track overall solid waste costs
- Have a numeric goal to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill
- Instruct housekeeping staff to save and reuse unopened items
- Recycle fryer grease
- Donate excess food from events
- Have an effective food inventory control system to minimize waste
- Use disposable foodservice items that are made from recycled content
- Use cloth napkins
- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- Use water pitchers to minimize the use of single-use bottles
- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Reuse or donate shipping and packing supplies (peanuts, bubble wrap, etc.)
- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible
- Use latex, low or no-VOC paints
- Properly recycle and/or dispose of thinners and solvents
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles

### **Use water efficiently**

- Track overall water usage and wastewater costs
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have landscaping that utilizes native species
- Other Activities: stream buffer restoration on property

### **Conserve energy**

- Track overall energy bills
- Have had an energy audit to identify efficiency opportunities within the past 12 months

- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Keep office doors and windows closed if HVAC system is on
- Use natural lighting (i.e., open draperies and raise shades whenever adequate light from windows is available)
- 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)
- Other Activities: plans underway for hotel renovation - green building practices

**Offer a green events package**

- Include the availability of "green meetings/conferences" in marketing packages (see the factsheet on Environmentally-Responsible Conferences & Events)




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For more information on **Natural Bridge Historic Hotel & Conference Center**, see [www.naturalbridgeva.com](http://www.naturalbridgeva.com) or contact Carly Pleines at [cpleines@naturalbridgeva.com](mailto:cpleines@naturalbridgeva.com) or 540-291-2121.

For more information on the Virginia Green program, see [www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx](http://www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx).



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