



# Virginia Green Hotels & Lodging Facilities



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## The Great Escape Shenandoah, 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.

## The Great Escape

We are a 2 BR 2 BA 1280 sq ft vacation cabin rental property.

We have been working to reduce, reuse and recycle for years and it was only natural that we would extend that effort to our business. We are careful to be respectful of the land and this is a good opportunity to illustrate to the public how we do that.

We provide our guests with a list of local activities and attractions that they may use to help plan their trip, schedule their outing, make the most of their time here and minimize their time on the road. We also purchase local goods any chance we get. We have documentation in the cabin asking our guests to buy local and ask them to recycle, and be mindful of their electronic usage (lights, temperature, appliances all off when not in use) just as they would be at home.

### Virginia Green Activities

#### This facility pledges that they:

##### Offer optional linen service

- Have signage in each guest room explaining the linen reuse procedures
- Train housekeeping staff on our process for optional linen service
- Purchase water- and energy-efficient washers and dryers
- Use non-phosphate, non-toxic and biodegradable laundry detergents
- Minimize the use of bleach and chlorinated chemicals

- Use a service that has environmentally-preferable wet cleaning for dry-clean only items
- Line dry linens whenever possible

## **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:

- Cardboard
- Fluorescent lamps
- Batteries

## **Reduce solid waste**

- Use bulk soap dispensers instead of individual soaps/shampoos in guest rooms
- Instruct housekeeping staff to save and reuse unopened items
- Compost food waste and other compostables
- Do not use any disposable containers, dishware, cutlery, or cups
- Use reusable coffee filters
- Use water pitchers to minimize the use of single-use bottles
- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Remove facility and staff names from junk mail lists when possible
- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- 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
- Use green cleaning products that are dispensed in bulk
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping
- Other Activities: We use non toxic cleaners and weed killers

## **Use water efficiently**

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have installed high efficiency dishwashers
- Have installed low flow faucets and showerheads (use less than 2.5 gallons per minute)
- Have installed low flow toilets (use 1.6 gallons per flush or less)
- Use microfiber technology mops

- Have landscaping that utilizes native species
- Have installed pervious pavement to reduce storm water runoff
- Have minimized impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)
- Have installed drip line irrigation
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers

### Conserve energy

- Track overall energy bills
- Have had an energy audit to identify efficiency opportunities within the past 12 months
- Have installed ceiling fans
- Have installed ENERGY STAR-rated windows and doors
- 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 compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and canned lighting
- Have adopted a policy/practice to minimize the use of lighting during night cleaning
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (commercial kitchens, heating and cooling, consumer electronics)
- 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

### Offer a green events package

- We do not host conferences or events



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For more information on **The Great Escape**, see [www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p3800847](http://www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p3800847) or contact Linda Jarrell at [Greatescapecabin@gmail.com](mailto:Greatescapecabin@gmail.com) or 540-742-2716.

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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