



Elmo's Rest Bedford, Virginia

Virginia Green is the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) initiative to promote pollution prevention (P2) practices in all aspects of the tourism and hospitality industry. *Virginia Green Lodging* is focused on the P2 opportunities within hotels, resorts, and other hospitality operations to be aware of their impact on the environment and to take steps to reduce these impacts. *Virginia Green* is a non-regulatory program, and participation is completely voluntary and free of charge.

Elmo's Rest

Elmo's Rest is a farm vacation rental operated by Nancy and Danny Johnson on the fifth generation family farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.



Why did we "go green"? *We want to make sure that future generations can enjoy the same lifestyle, breath fresh air, drink clean water and enjoy the spectacular views that the past 5 generations of our family did that lived and worked on the farm.*

CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Lodging

“☑” This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Lodging facilities. Virginia Green participants *self-certify* that these activities are in place, and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to Elmo's Rest can expect the following *green 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.

- House cleaners are trained on process of optional linen service
- We purchase water-efficient washers and dryers
- Use non-phosphate, non-toxic, and biodegradable laundry detergents.
- We minimize the use of bleach and chlorinated chemicals whenever possible

☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must provide guests the opportunity to recycle during their stay. Recycling should be highly visible to guests with clear signage. Participants are encouraged to have a comprehensive recycling program, subject to market availability, etc.

- Recycling Glass, Aluminum Cans, Plastic Bottles, Newspapers, Cardboard, Fluorescent Lamps, Batteries, and Electronics.
- *We compost waste food by feeding it to the animals!*
- *We return plastic bags to the store!*
- We have bulk soap dispensers
- Instruct housekeeping to save and reuse unopened items
- Purchase recycled-content toilet paper and paper towels
- We purchase locally-grown produce and other foods
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Use electronic correspondence and forms
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Reused building materials and those from sustainable sources
- Latex paints
- Proper recycling or disposal of paint thinners and solvents
- Preventative maintenance of appliances, HVAC, plumbing and vehicles

- Minimized use of pesticides and herbicides
- *We use mulch to control weeds.*

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

- Preventative maintenance of drips and leaks
- Low flow toilets and low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads.
- Effective landscape management with native and drought-tolerant species
- Discourage water based cleanup
- Minimization of impervious areas
- Vegetative buffers around streams and buffers



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

- Use of ceiling fans
- High efficiency HVAC
- Extensive use of natural lighting
- Thermal rated windows and insulation
- Use directional lighting in parking lots and walkways

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.

- *We don't typically host events, but green practices are in place at all times!*

For more information on Elmo's Rest see www.elmosrest.com or contact Danny Johnson at 540-586-3707 or appleseed@earthlink.com.



For more information on *Virginia Green Lodging* program, www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen or go to www.viriniagreentravel.org.



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