



Virginia Green Lodging Profile:



Hilton Garden Inn and Suffolk Conference Center Suffolk, 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.



Hilton Garden Inn

The Hilton Inn and Suffolk Conference Center is nestled on a six-acre park on the banks of the Nansemond River in Historic Suffolk. The Hotel has 150 guest rooms and the conference center has 14,000 square feet of catering and meeting space. Hilton Garden Inn decided to “go green” through “a desire of the management and staff to be environmentally responsible and reduce energy and waste”.

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 the Hilton Garden Inn 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
- Water efficient washers and energy efficient dryers purchased
- Minimization of bleach and chlorinated chemicals

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, Steel Cans, Plastic, Office Paper, Toner Cartridges, Newspapers, Cardboard, Packing Supplies, Fluorescent Lamps, Batteries and Electronics equipment
- Tracking of overall waste bills
- Refill bulk soap dispensers instead of using individual soaps
- Instruct housekeeping to save and reuse unopened items
- Eliminating the use of Styrofoam

- Use dishware and glassware instead of disposables
- Use of water pitchers instead of single use bottles
- Implement effective food inventory system to minimize waste
- Purchase recycled content paper towels and toilet tissue
- Purchasing from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Using two sided copying and printing
- Purchasing durable equipment and furniture
- Using latex paints and proper recycling of thinners and solvents
- Last in/first-out inventory and effective labeling systems
- Minimal use of pesticides and herbicides

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

- Tracking overall water usage
- Preventative maintenance of drips and leaks
- Discouraging water-based clean-up, sweep first
- Low flow toilets and low flow restrictors on faucets and showerheads
- Cisterns and drip line irrigation

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

- Tracking overall energy bills and setting a numeric goal to reduce
- Purchasing high efficiency compact fluorescent light bulbs for rooms and spotlights
- Installing LED Exit signs
- Using high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps
- Individual thermostats in each room
- Purchasing “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.

- Inclusion of “green meetings/conferences” in marketing packages

For more information on **Hilton Garden Inn and Suffolk Conference Center**, see www.suffolk.gardeninn.com or contact Brian Williams at bwilliams@hgisuffolk.com.



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

