



## Ivy Cottage on the River Middlesex County, 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.

### Ivy Cottage on the River

Located in the Middlesex County, Virginia on Route 3 near the Piankatank River Bridge on the River.

**Why did we "go green"?** *Our cottage has been environmentally friendly from its outset. Our family has always felt that living on the river is not only a privilege but carries a responsibility to care for the environment as well.*

### 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 Ivy Cottage on the River 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
  - Non-phosphate, non-toxic, and biodegradable laundry detergents.
  - We minimize the use of bleach and chlorinated chemicals whenever possible
  - ***We line dry all bed linens on clothes line and other linens whenever possible. We use 100% cotton linens and many are organic!***
- ☑ **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 Bottles, Office Paper, Toner Cartridges, Newspapers, Cardboard, Packing Supplies, Fluorescent Lamps, Batteries, and Electronics.
  - ***Twice a year we powder unused soaps and use them as laundry detergent!***
  - We have bulk soap dispensers
  - Instruct housekeeping to save and reuse unopened items
  - Eliminated use of Styrofoam products
  - Use dishware and glassware instead of disposables
  - Provide condiments and cream and sugar in bulk
  - Purchase recycled-content toilet paper and paper towels
  - Implement effective food inventory system to minimize waste
  - Purchase locally-grown produce and other foods
  - 2-sided copying and printing
  - Purchase durable equipment and furniture
  - Reused building materials and those from sustainable sources
  - Latex paints

- Reuse of paint thinners and proper disposal of residuals
- Preventative maintenance of appliances, HVAC, plumbing and vehicles
- Minimized use of pesticides and herbicides
- *We compost yard waste; grind or shred all tree limbs or other woody materials and use them on the landscape plant beds and around trees to retard 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.
- Minimization of impervious areas
- Vegetative buffers around streams and buffers
- *We hand-water plants and trees when necessary with garden hose.*

**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 goal to reduce
- High efficiency HVAC using natural gas and centrifugal chillers with individual thermostats for each room
- Extensive use of natural lighting
- Thermal rated windows and insulation
- Use directional lighting in parking lots and walkways
- Purchased fuel-efficient cars – *a hybrid!*
- *About 1/2 of our lighting has been switched to fluorescents. We have just installed an energy efficient water heater and a new dual-fuel heating and cooling system!*

**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 host events!*

For more information on Ivy Cottage on the River see [www.virginiarivercottages.com](http://www.virginiarivercottages.com) or contact Suzanne Dezern at 757-472-7211 or [virginiarivercottages@yahoo.com](mailto:virginiarivercottages@yahoo.com).



For more information on *Virginia Green Lodging* program, [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen) or go to [www.virginiagreentravel.org](http://www.virginiagreentravel.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.

