



# Virginia Green Lodging Profile:



## Chesapeake Conference Center Chesapeake, Virginia



**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.

### Chesapeake Conference Center

“The Chesapeake Conference Center is a 51,000 square foot facility with approximately 36,000 square feet of meeting space that has a 20,000 square foot ballroom that can be configured into 6 smaller meeting rooms plus the potential for one additional 2,700 square foot meeting room that can be divided into 2 smaller meeting rooms. We offer intimate settings for large and small events with ample pre-function space and are centrally located in the Greenbrier corridor of Chesapeake surrounded by a host of quality hotels and dining within walking distance.”



**Green Statement:** “In an effort to join the Chesapeake hospitality community as well as the State of Virginia and the Nation’s call to protect the environment, we have made immediate changes to our 12-year old facility that promote a cleaner environment, create energy efficiency, and the opportunity to partner with our meeting planners to have "green-conscious" meetings. It is our responsibility and duty to do our part to add to the greater global initiative in protecting the earth by any means that we feasibly can.”

### CORE ACTIVITIES for Conference Centers

“☑” This symbol indicates a required activity for Virginia Green Conference Centers. Participants self-certify that these activities are in place and they provide additional specifics on other activities. Visitors to **Chesapeake Conference Center** can expect the following practices:

- ☑ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** All conference centers must provide for recycling at their events. Aluminum can and plastic bottle recycling are a must. Recycling of steel cans, cardboard, office paper, and composting of waste foods are encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:
  - Recycle: aluminum cans, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, newspaper, fluorescent lamps
  - Track overall waste bills  
*kitchen (or meetings/events)*

- Donate excess food from events
- Have an effective food inventory control to minimize waste  
*dining room (or meetings/events)*
- Use reusable dishware and glassware & minimize use of disposables
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk
- Use water pitches and filtered water to minimize the use of single-use bottles  
*restrooms*
- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper  
*office/purchasing*
- Use a last-in/first-out inventory & effective labeling systems
- Purchase from vendors and service providers with a commitment to the environment
- Make 2-sided copies / printed materials
- Use electronic correspondence and forms  
*building and grounds*
- Using “green” Cleaners ([www.greenseal.org](http://www.greenseal.org)) that are dispensed in bulk
- Purchase durable equipment and furniture
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use less toxic materials
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

**Styrofoam elimination and reduction of disposables.** Virginia Green Conference centers are encouraged to eliminate or minimize the use of Styrofoam-based products and to use alternative disposables that are made of natural products and/or are bio-degradable. This facility pledges that they:

- Do not use any disposable containers

**Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have high efficiency dishwashers
- Discourage water-based cleanup (sweeping first)
- Have an effective landscape management plan which utilize drought tolerant species, and minimizes lawn areas
- Have an effective stormwater management plan including: minimization of impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc)

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

- Track overall energy bills
- Use:
  - compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
  - LED Exit Signs
  - high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T5s and T8s)
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Purchase EnergyStar-rated computers, copiers, and appliances
- Have thermal-rated windows and insulation
- Use directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas
- Use EnergyStar's Benchmarking Tools for the Hospitality Industry



**Green Events Package.** Virginia Green conference centers 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. This facility pledges that they:

- Promote the availability of “green meetings/conferences” in marketing packages
- In-house recycling program, training for all staff in recycling/waste prevention, regularly purchase reusable and durable products, recycle old durable supplies and equipment, offer china at all food and beverage functions, donate left over food to a local program whenever feasible as well as work with a meeting planner on volunteer/green initiatives, utilize low flush devices in restrooms, practice energy conservation daily, and minimize water usage.
- We are in the process of implementing a program to recycle lanyards used for conferences to donate to our local Chamber of Commerce and it's members to be used throughout the business community.

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For more information on **Chesapeake Conference Center**, see [www.chesapeakeconference.com](http://www.chesapeakeconference.com) or contact **Deirdra McBride** at [dmcbride@cityofchesapeake.net](mailto:dmcbride@cityofchesapeake.net) or **757-382-2500**.

For more information on the *Virginia Green* program, see [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html) or go to [www.viriniagreentravel.org](http://www.viriniagreentravel.org).



*Virginia Green* is the Commonwealth’s campaign to encourage environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia’s tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

