



Spencer-Penn Centre Spencer, Virginia

"The Spencer-Penn Centre, a renovated and restored historic school building, is operated by the Spencer-Penn School Preservation Organization as an educational and special events facility for the community. Having two large and several small areas, the Centre can accommodate large corporate and organization functions as well as large or small private special events."

Green Statement: "Being located in a rural area of exceptional beauty in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, we fully appreciate the need to preserve our environment and prevent the ugliness which pollution has brought to so many areas. Pollution prevention is an economically wise investment, and we encourage the frugal use of our resources instead of their wasteful depletion. Spencer-Penn Centre sponsors a free Tailgate Produce Market one afternoon weekly from mid-May to September to encourage the sale and purchase of locally-grown produce. The Spencer-Penn Community Kitchen also is available for canning of local produce or the production of jellies, sauces, salsas for sale or personal consumption. Almost all of the collection of books in the Hylton Library located within our building have been donated by community members."

CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Conference Centers

Recycling. All conference centers must have highly-visible locations/containers that provide the opportunity for guests to recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Recycling of steel cans, cardboard, office paper, and composting of waste foods are encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Provide the opportunity for guests to recycle: plastic bottles, aluminum cans, newspaper
- Have recycling bins located: near both Banquet rooms and in lobby; newspaper recycling bins in the Library
- Also recycle office paper, toner cartridges, cardboard

Minimization of Disposable Food Service Products. All conference centers are required to minimize the use of disposable food service products and maximize the use of food service products that are recyclable or compostable in the food service area. When disposable food service items are used, you are encouraged to use products that are made from bio-based or renewable resources, and to provide for the collection / recycling/ composting of food service items disposed of on the premises. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable foodservice items that are recyclable
- Use compostable food service items and direct this material to available composting operations in your area

Solid Waste Reduction. All conference centers must be actively working to reduce their solid waste generation. This facility pledges that they:

- Kitchen (or meetings/events)*
- Donate excess food from events
 - Compost food waste and other compostables
 - Have an effective food inventory control to minimize waste



Dining room (or meetings/events)

- Use cloth napkins
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk

Restrooms

- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms

Office

- Remove facility and staff names from junk mail lists when possible
- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Reuse or donate shipping and packing supplies (peanuts, bubble wrap, etc.)
- Use refillable pens and toner cartridges
- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible

Building and grounds

- Install carpet with sustainable or recycled content and low-VOC adhesives
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Re-use paint thinners
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

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

Activities indoors

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have installed high efficiency dishwashers

Activities outdoors

- Have an effective landscape management plan which utilizes native species and minimizes lawn areas
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers

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

Heating and cooling

- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have high efficiency heating & air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Keep office doors and windows closed in HVAC system is on

Lighting

- Use natural lighting
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
- Have installed directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas



Appliances and electronic devices

- Have adopted a policy / practice to turn off fans, computers, monitors and other device in unoccupied rooms an the end of the workday or when otherwise not being used

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. This facility pledges that they:

- Promote the availability of “green meetings/conferences” in marketing packages
- Provide information about public events electronically to local media
- Provide private event information packets electronically
- Use programmable thermostats to maintain comfort levels during meetings and to ensure HVAC systems are turned off when not needed in large meeting rooms
- Each room in use is heated/cooled individually
- Linen service is available for events including napkins and tablecloths.

For more information on Spencer-Penn Centre, see www.TheCentreAtSpencerPenn.com or contact Mary Jordan at spspo04@yahoo.com or 276-957-5757.

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia’s campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia’s tourism industry. **Virginia Green Conference Centers** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This conference center has met the established “core activities” for **Green Conference Centers** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests.

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen or 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.

