



Virginia Green Green Festivals & Events



Festivals, conferences, meetings, and other events are important contributors to regional and statewide tourism. However, they can also result in significant environmental impacts from the wastes generated, the amount of materials used, transportation to and from events, and the energy and water consumed during the event. For an environmentally-responsible organization, a wasteful festival, conference or event can be embarrassing; and it can literally have a negative impact on an otherwise positive experience for the participants. Conversely, thoughtfully-planned “green events” will clearly communicate to participants that the organizers are committed to minimizing the event’s environmental impacts.

Planning a green event does not mean additional incurred costs – it simply requires a change in mindset and some thoughtful, up-front planning. Facilities and venues that are prepared to host green conferences, meetings, and events will make the event organizer’s job that much easier; and hopefully, that facility will be rewarded with repeat business and referrals. And participants in the Virginia Green Travel program would be the natural choice for hosting green conferences, meetings, and events!

Core Sustainability Commitments

Green Team

- Have a green team in place to assist attendees and monitor and control green practices for the event. Details: _____

Recycling

- Comprehensive recycling in place for glass, plastics, paper, and cardboard. If you cannot recycle any of these, please provide detail: _____ **(Required)**
- Recycling containers are all co-located with trash containers. **(Required)**
- Signage instructing attendees about what is or is not recyclable at this event.
 - Signage on containers
 - Larger signage near entranceways
 - On-line information about recycling
- Additional items being collected for recycling or donation at your event:
 - Electronics
 - Plastic bags
 - Clothing
 - Other: _____
- Recycling vendor. Please name the recycling vendor that is managing / hauling your recycling: _____ **(Required)**
- Tracking the weights of trash and recycling and calculating a recycling rate for your event. Do you know the recycling rate from last year’s event (if applicable)? _____
- Other details related to recycling: _____

Waste Reduction

- Tracking waste, recycling, and compost costs.
 - Composting food wastes and compostable materials
 - Using compostable disposables? Please list items that are compostable at your event: _____
 - Please name the vendor that is handling compostables: _____
- Minimizing the Impact of Disposables
 - Commitment to no polystyrene items used by any vendors **(Required)**
 - Not using disposable items. If so, please name items: _____
 - Disposables that are readily recyclable at your event. Please describe: _____
 - Disposables made with recycled content. Please describe: _____
- Food Service
 - Choose only food vendors that are committed to green practices.
 - Educating vendors on recycling and composting activities in place
 - Provide for recycling and trash co-located with all food vendors
 - Providing condiments in bulk
 - Providing non-bleached napkins
 - Provision of bulk water dispensers in lieu of single-use bottles
 - Recycling of all grease used by vendors
 - Recycling vendor who recycles into bio-diesel
 - Donation of excess food
 - Sustainable, Organic &/or Local Food Offerings
 - Please list: _____
 - Other waste reduction practices applicable to food service: _____
- Restrooms
 - Using environmentally-friendly solutions. Please specify: _____
 - Collection of paper towels for composting (if applicable).
- Beverage Cup Reuse
 - Please provide details: _____
- Do not plan a balloon release. Balloon debris often ends up in streams, rivers, and the ocean, even when released inland. Marine animals can ingest the balloons or become entangled by their attachments, causing great injury and even death.

Energy

- Transportation: **(At least 1 required)**
 - Carpooling encouraged
 - Shuttles provided
 - Biking encouraged:
 - Parking / Valet provided
 - Other details on how encouraged: _____
 - Other details on transportation impact reduction: _____
- Green Power Generation & Use
 - Solar. Details: _____
 - Biodiesel Details: _____

- Pedal-power. Details: _____
- Other details: _____
- Green Power
 - Greenhouse gas impacts of festival calculated
 - Energy credits/REC's purchased to offset impacts.
 - What percentage and details: _____

Water

- Low-flow fixtures in restrooms (if applicable)
 - Details: _____

Communication & Signage

- Website: **(At least 1 Required)**
 - Link on website explaining / listing green practices in place for your event.
 - Link to Virginia Green certification listing and profile
 - Post information on social media
- Signage: **(At least 1 Required)**
 - Recycling.
 - On each recycling & trash container reminding participants about what is and is not recyclable for this event.
 - Have larger signs at festival entrances and throughout that explain recycling and other practices
 - All Green Practices.
 - Signage which list green practices overall.
 - Virginia Green
 - Use the Virginia Green Festival logo on banners, signage, and the like
 - Obtain reusable Virginia Green Event banners from Virginia Green program for display during your festival.

Support of Sustainable Organizations & Projects

- Donations made to a local environmental organization. Details: _____
- Support of local environmental projects. Details: _____
- Engagement of Green Corporate Sponsorships in support of:
 - Festival green practices
 - Local organizations / projects
 - Virginia Green Travel Alliance Outreach Fund
- Other details: _____

Other Sustainable Practices

- Details: _____
- _____
- _____



For information on Virginia Green and Green Festivals, Conferences & Events, go to the Virginia Green at www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx. Or you can learn more on the Virginia Green marketing website at www.VirginiaGreenTravel.org.

Virginia Green is sponsored by:



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