



Guidelines for Sustainable Meetings

The Virginia Beach Convention Center (VBCC) is committed to operating in an efficient and environmentally friendly manner that provides optimal comfort for you while conserving our natural resources. Your efforts are an important component in achieving our sustainability goals. Please consider the following:

1. Choose a sustainable venue like the VBCC - a LEED® Gold¹ certified facility that has recycling and composting programs, donates food to local shelters, incorporates locally grown and organic food into its menus and much more.
2. Conserve paper by printing on both sides, posting event materials to your web site or distributing materials on flash drives.
3. Encourage attendees to put all plastic bottles, paper, cardboard and aluminum cans in the VBCC recycling cans (specially marked silver cans in the meeting rooms, blue bins in all other areas).
4. Purchase name badges that are reusable and collect them at the end of the meeting for use at forthcoming meetings.
5. Avoid dating promotional items such as goodie bags, coffee mugs, or note pads. Overages can then easily be taken to the next meeting or event.
6. Once the event is over, switch to minimal lighting for clean up and turn off all lights once everyone leaves the room.
7. Use water pitchers or water stations with glasses rather than individual water bottles.
8. Have meals served plated rather than buffet style – that usually means less food is wasted.
9. Encourage exhibitors to use cardboard, paper and other environmentally friendly packing materials (avoid Styrofoam when possible).
10. Opt to use the VBCC's china and linen or biodegradable plates, cups and flatware available in our concession stands.
11. Choose a venue like the VBCC that is rich in ambiance and beauty and therefore requires less decorating and enhancement, saves money and reduces your carbon footprint.
12. Recommend local hotels and restaurants that participate in the Virginia Green² program to your attendees. Visit www.vbfun.com/green for a complete list.
13. Encourage attendees to enjoy environmentally friendly activities such as walks on the beach or by visiting one of the many nearby state and national parks. Visit www.vbfun.com/green for a complete list.

For a complete list of VBCC's sustainability initiatives, visit www.vbconventioncenter.com/green.

¹ Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is an internationally recognized green building certification system initiated by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

The VBCC earned LEED Gold certification in the Existing Buildings (LEED-EB) category and was the Nation's first convention center and Virginia's largest building to earn this designation. The LEED for Existing Buildings Rating System helps building owners and operators measure operations, improvements and maintenance on a consistent scale, with the goal of maximizing operational efficiency while minimizing environmental impacts. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org/leed

² Virginia Green is the statewide program that works to reduce the environmental impacts of Virginia's Tourism Industry. It is run as a partnership between DEQ, the Virginia Tourism Corporation and the Virginia Hospitality and Tourism Association. For more information, visit www.deq.state.va.us/p2/virginiagreen