

# The Founders Inn & Spa Sustainability Initiatives

## Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia Food Rescue Program

This is an initiative to collect prepared and perishable food from 149 Virginia Beach, VA area grocery stores, hotels, restaurants, caterers, and discount retailers to distribute immediately to the hungry. Annually, the Foodbank collects nearly 5.6 million pounds through this program.

Each month, The Founders Inn & Spa resort employees prepare and cook meals to be served for the Foodbank's Kids Cafe.

## Recycling

As one of the green lodging initiatives, we allow our hotel guests an opportunity to recycle during their stay at our resort. The following items are collected in pre-function space, meeting space, offices, and all back of the house spaces:

- Glass
- Steel cans
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic
- Office paper
- Cardboard
- In our restaurants, cooking grease is removed and recycled
- Our building features reused building materials (vintage flooring, beams)
- We recycle the fluids in our vehicles
- Mercury is captured from proper disposal of fluorescent lamps

## Waste Reduction

### Conference Facilities & Restaurants

- We use dishware and glassware to minimize the use of disposables
- Effective hotel's food inventory management is practiced minimizing waste
- The use of water pitchers is offered to minimize use of single-use bottles
- When available, we purchase local Virginia-Beach grown produce and food

### Hotel Guestrooms

- We use dishware and glassware to minimize the use of disposables
- Effective hotel's food inventory management is practiced minimizing waste
- The use of water pitchers is offered to minimize use of single-use bottles
- When available, we purchase local Virginia-Beach grown produce and food

### Office & Purchasing

- Purchase of recycled-content paper-towels
- Purchase of coreless toilet paper
- Use of 2-sided copies/printing
- Use of electronic correspondence and forms
- Purchase of durable equipment and furniture
- Purchase of recycled content paper
- Use of EnergyStar computers

### Maintenance

- Latex Paint is used in our resort buildings
- We use environmentally- friendly housekeeping products
- Integrated pest management plan is in place
- Drain plugs are in hotel maintenance shop to prevent spill discharge into the sewer
- We practice an effective system of hazardous waste storage through labeling and handling
- We are eliminating the use of aerosols in all hotel operations

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## Waste Reduction

### Energy Conservation

- We use a high-efficiency HVAC using natural gas and centrifugal chillers with individual thermostats
- Our lights are being replaced by high-efficiency compact fluorescent lighting
- We use an Ice Storage System to cool the main hotel building
- Automatic Light Sensors are placed in our Conference Center

### Water Conservation

- Preventative maintenance of drips and leaks
- Well water used for irrigation
- Reuse of cooling tower waters
- Re-circulating dishwashers
- Low Flow Restrictors on toilets
- Effective landscaping management plan in place on our 26-acre site

## Green Meetings

The Founders Inn & Spa hotel is committed to becoming one of the most effective green and environmentally-friendly Virginia Beach hotels. With green lodging in mind, we encourage our hotel guests to consider green alternatives for private events to consolidate the efforts in achieving this goal.

Please consider the following suggestions before, during, and after your special event:

### Before Your Event

- Conference information should be provided electronically via e-mail or Internet site.
- Avoid direct mail campaigns for marketing your event.
- All Printed Materials should be on Recycled-Content Paper that contains at least 30% post-consumer material and was not chlorine-bleached. • • Double-side copying is a must!
- Provide accurate attendance numbers to your service providers. This will reduce food and other conference wastes.
- Encourage meeting and event attendees to use Electronic registration and check-out, which can be provided by the hotel. This saves paper and energy.
- Reduce transportation requirements by using The Founders Inn and Spa shuttle for airport transportation and off-site activities associated with the conference.
- Green the Exhibitors and Vendors. Encourage vendors to stay with the green theme and to minimize wasteful giveaways wherever possible.
- Ask conference speakers to use an overhead or slide projector to present material instead of using a flip-chart or hand-outs. Remind speakers at the time of booking that many handouts usually end up in the waste stream
- Utilize reusable crates or cartons when transporting supplies to reduce packaging materials.
- Make promotional banners and wall posters that are non-dated, so they can be reused in the future.

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## Green Meetings

- Green Energy: Consider purchasing “Green Tags” or “Renewable Energy Certificates” to offset the additional costs of using energy from renewable sources to power your conference.
- Decide if an additional hauler needs to be contacted to recycle any materials the facility does not. If so, contact local haulers to determine who will best fit your needs for recycling and composting and the allowable levels of contamination for both.
- Talk the Green Talk. Let your participants know that you have made an effort to minimize the environmental impacts of your event.

## During the Event

- Ensure that the banquet staff is properly trained to recycle all recyclable materials from your event.
- Ensure that the recycling areas are well marked and displayed throughout the meeting and conference facilities and are easily accessible.
- No Styrofoam! Request the use of coffee mugs, but otherwise use paper or biodegradable materials for disposable cups and take-out containers.
- Ensure that reusable dishes, silverware, and napkins are provided for conference participants.
- Avoid use of boxed lunches to reduce generation of waste materials.
- Provide water and other beverages in pitchers or other bulk dispensers.
- Consider purchasing recyclable name tags. These are available through your Founders Inn and Spa conference planning manager.

## After the Event

- Assess program and identify potential improvements and suggestions.
- Provide conference proceedings electronically via e-mail, Internet site or on CD-ROM

