



Virginia Marine Resources Commission

2600 Washington Avenue, Third Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607

www.mrc.virginia.gov

We're Going Greener

Green Commonwealth Challenge

Encouraging state agencies and employees to explore ways to reduce our collective impact on the environment.



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What is it?

- The Green Commonwealth Challenge will reduce the environmental impact of state agencies and institutions.
- The policy promotes energy and water efficiency and reduced employee travel and commuting.
- This is a result of Gov. Kaine's Executive Order 82, issued in June.



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What's in it for You?

- The agency with the highest score will be awarded *one day* of recognition leave for each full-time employee.
- The agency with the second-highest score will be awarded *4 hours* of recognition leave for each full-time employee.
- The agency with the third-highest score will be awarded *2 hours* of recognition leave for each full-time employee.



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Keeping Score

- Employees will report their energy savings weekly through an easy-to-use online reporting system.
- Trips not taken, commutes not made, paper and plastic not used, additional material recycled – all will be tracked.
- Energy Czarina Brandy Battle will compile those weekly reports and will call to pester you.



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What We'll Do

- No more agency-supplied bottled water.
- Increased telecommuting.
- Carpooling parking spots behind the building.
- Double-sided printing.
- Turn off lights and computers at the day's end.
- Save paper. Store records electronically.
- Create "Go Green" email signatures to spread the word.
- Monthly contests for best energy savings idea.



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Use Glasses Not Plastics



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Plastic Recycling Facts

- It takes over 1.5 million barrels of oil to manufacture a year's supply of bottled water. That's enough oil to fuel 100,000 cars.
- Eight out of 10 plastic water bottles become landfill waste.
- Plastic bottles can take up to 1,000 years before they begin to biodegrade once buried.



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New “Go Green” Glasses

- The agency is no longer allowed to purchase bottled water.
- Souvenir 16-ounce glasses have been bought for all employees.
- Extras are available for sale for those who want them. Price: \$4 each. See Brandy Battle.
- These were **NOT** bought with state money.



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Park It



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Carpool and Telecommute

- Designated spaces have been established in the parking lot behind the building for those who commute in carpools.
- These spaces are the ones in the main lot closest to the back door of the main office.
- Employees eligible to telecommute, but do not, are urged to do so. Please see Linda Hancock.
- If you can, teleconference instead of travel. If you have to travel, carpool with colleagues if possible.



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Reduce Paper Use



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Save the Trees

- Print on both sides and only needed pages.
- Reset printer defaults to print on both sides automatically.
- Create an email signature that reads: “Go Green; Don’t print this email.”
- Save documents electronically, either on thumb drives, your hard drive or the Mdrive.



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**Americans use more than
50 million *tons* of paper
each year.**



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Much of it by Jane



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And Mike Meier



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Have Your Own Idea?

- Monthly contests for best staff idea on how to save energy.
- Prize: A \$25 gift certificate.
- A panel of judges will evaluate staff submissions.
- The panel will be comprised of Linda, Jane, Brandy and John.
- The contest will start in Sept. and last until December 1. Send your suggestions to Linda.



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What You Can Do At Home

Here are some easy ways to
reduce your carbon footprint and
help save the planet.



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Change a Light Bulb



A compact fluorescent bulb consumes about 75 percent less electricity and last up to 10 times longer. Replace one 75-watt incandescent bulb with a 25-watt CFL and save up to \$83 over the life of the bulb.



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If every household in America switched five regular light bulbs for five fluorescent bulbs, it would be the equivalent of taking *1 million cars* off the highways for a full year.



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Unplug Things That Glow

- Anything that has an LED that glows even after turned off continues to draw power.
- Unplug the devices from wall sockets and plug them into power strips.
- When you leave a room, flip the strip switch to cut the flow of electricity.



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- Unplug appliances and electronics that glow and you could save \$200 a year.



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Recycle Your Electronics

- Americans tossed out a whopping 5.5 billion pounds of electronics a year.
- The result? Millions of pounds of chemicals and heavy metals ended up in the ground.
- If 1 million people recycled one cathode-ray tube TV this year, we'd keep 4 million pounds of lead out of the ground.



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Both Newport News and Hampton Accepts E-Waste Several Times a Year



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Any Questions?



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