

Take the 2014 Green Government Challenge

Click on "see background materials" to read a detailed description of each action. In addition, view examples, links and an explanation of how to score points or partial points.

Total Possible Points

Points for Pre-2014 Actions

Points for 2014 Actions

Government Policy Adoption

1. Formal adoption of sustainability plan, climate protection resolution, or similar commitment by the governing body. Background materials	10		
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Energy Efficiency

2. Create an Energy Improvement Plan (EIP). Background materials	10		
3. Conduct a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory of your government facilities using an assessment tool, such as those available from ICLEI or EPA's Energy Star program. Background materials	10		
4. If programs by ICLEI or EPA's Energy Star Program are impractical, please identify an alternative format and for documenting reductions or improved efficiencies in energy use. Please comment on separate page to briefly describe format and results.	10		
5. Conduct an energy audit of three or more of your government facilities and implement at least two recommendations within the past 12 months. Background materials	5		
6. Purchase electric power from renewable sources or install renewable energy technology (solar, wind, or geothermal) for use in government facilities. The total of purchased renewable energy and on-site produced renewable energy must equal at least 1% of the energy use of all government facilities. Background materials	5		
7. Offer tax incentives allowed under Virginia Code for energy efficiency and/or renewable energy related to real estate, buildings, and vehicles. Background materials	5		
8. Develop a policy to utilize energy efficient and dark sky compliant outdoor light fixtures. Background materials	5		
9. Establish an energy manager position/responsibility or management team within the government. Background materials	5		

Green Buildings

10. Establish a policy of LEED certification for all new government facilities. Background materials	5		
11. Approve or build a LEED certified government or school building OR renovate an existing building to the LEED certified level. (5 points for the first building, and an additional 5 points for the second). Background materials	10		

Waste Management

12. Establish a procurement policy of a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content for everyday office paper use (consistent with the current federal government policy). Background materials	5		
13. Establish a policy for procurement of other office supplies or materials that contain recycled content. Please comment on separate page to briefly describe policy, types of supplies or materials.	5		

14. Establish a community-wide recycling collection program that meets the state-mandated rate. Background materials	5		
15. Document the achievement of a community-wide recycling collection program that exceeds the statewide mandated rate by 5%.	5		
16. Establish a public outreach program to educate citizens about the importance of minimizing household waste, reuse, and recycling as alternatives to landfilling.	5		
17. Establish a program for holding household hazardous waste collection events.	5		
18. Establish a program that implements innovative landfill practices, such as collection and beneficial use of landfill gas, increased compaction, or donation of certain reuseable materials to charities. Please "comment" on separate page to briefly describe program.	5		

Vehicles

19. Adopt a "Green Fleet" policy that incorporates, as a minimum, the purchase of low emitting fuel-efficient vehicles for vehicle fleet replacement and the use of alternative fuels (biodiesel, natural gas, ethanol) in fleet operations. Background materials	5		
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Land Use/Transportation

20. Adopt land-use plans that allow higher-density development either near public transit nodes or in areas with existing infrastructure AND encourage mixed-use communities. Background materials	5		
21. Promote the use of permanent conservation easements on private property within your community and/or implement a permanent conservation easement on public land. Background materials	5		
22. Adopt a land use or development tool that preserves open space, farmland and forests such as Purchase of Development Rights (PDRs) or Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs), land use taxation, or establishment of ag and forestal districts. Background materials	5		

Water/Air Quality

23. Develop and implement a plan for tree preservation & planting. Background materials	5		
24. Adopt policies that encourage Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management policy, Environmental Site Design (ESD) guidelines, and/or water reclamation. Background materials	5		
25. Adopt an anti-idling policy for school/government fleet vehicles. Background materials	5		
26. Adopt a program promoting conservation of public water supplies. Please use "comment" section to briefly describe the program and results.	5		
27. Adopt a public outreach program to inform citizens about effective practices in normal home maintenance activities to reduce pollution from stormwater run-off. For example, such activities may include lawn care, car-washing, house-painting, automobile maintenance.	5		
28. Adopt a Environmental Management System Programs to reduce environmental risks.	5		
29. Achieve State (DEQ) certification at levels of E2, E3 or E4. (Award 1 extra point for each program with certification levels at E2 or above. Example: E2=1 point; E3=2 points; E4=3 points. 3 programs at "E4" levels = 9 points.)	1 point per level for each program at E2 level or above		

Employee Incentives

30. Provide employee benefits for ride sharing, walking, biking, or taking transit to work. Background materials	5		
31. Adopt a policy that a minimum of 20% of the eligible workforce should participate in alternative work schedules or telework schedules or telework by 2010 consistent with the current VA state policy.) Background materials	5		
32. Develop an employee education program on policies/practices relating to the environment and energy conservation. Background materials	5		

Education/Community Participation

33. Establish an advisory commission composed of local residents and business representatives to advise and assist the local governing board on policies and practices dealing with the environment and energy conservation. Background materials	10		
34. Implement a "Green Living Challenge" for households and civic associations to promote sustainable living practices. Background materials	10		
35. Implement a "Green Office Challenge" for commercial property owners and the office tenants to promote improved environmental performance of their operations. Background materials	10		
36. Implement a "Green Business Challenge" for businesses to promote actions within their organizations to conserve energy and reduce greenhouse gases. Background materials	10		
37. Implement a "Green Farm Challenge" to recognize farms that work to improve water quality by implementing Best Management Practices to reduce runoff of nutrients and sediments into nearby water bodies.	10		

Schools

38. Establish a Safe Routes to School program, which encourages walking and bicycling to neighborhood schools. Background materials	5		
39. Establish clubs and waste management teams dealing with the environment or energy conservation in at least half of your high schools. Background materials	5		
40. Implement a program in one or more schools that connects students to local farms and/or local produce (such as the Farm to School program). Background materials	5		

Innovation

41. Innovation Credits - for any efforts, policies, activities beyond those identified above which are proven to reduce the carbon emissions of local governments. How to score No. 41/Background materials	15		
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Grand Total			
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Grand Total: Pre-2014 Actions + 2014 Actions