

Take the 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-2008 Actions

Points for 2008 Actions

Government Policy Adoption

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

2. Create an Energy Improvement Plan (EIP). See background materials	10		
3. Register with the EPA's Energy Star Challenge and use their tools, or an equivalent system, to conduct a baseline emissions inventory of your government facilities. See background materials	10		
4. Conduct an energy audit of two or more of your government facilities and implement at least one recommendation. See background materials	10		
5. 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 2.5% of the energy use of all government facilities. See background materials	5		
6. Create a separate real-estate classification and lower tax rate for buildings that are 30% more efficient than required by building code (Code of Va. §58.1-3321.2). See background materials	5		
7. Develop a policy to utilize energy efficient and/or dark sky compliant outdoor light fixtures. See background materials	5		
8. Establish an energy manager position/responsibility or management team within the government. See background materials	5		

NOTE: To see the complete interactive Challenge, including detailed instructions, background materials and scoring, please register. It's quick and easy! Registering does not obligate you to complete the Challenge, but we urge you to do so.

Green Buildings

9. Establish a policy of LEED certification for all new government facilities. See background materials	5		
10. 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 for the second). See background materials	10		

Waste Management

11. Implement an internal government program that reduces, reuses, and recycles paper, plastic and other materials. See background materials	5		
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 – Exec. Order 13101). See background materials	5		
13. Establish a community-wide recycling collection program. See background materials	5		

Vehicles

14. Adopt a "Green Fleet" policy that incorporates, at 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. See background materials	10		
15. Offer personal property tax break for low emitting fuel efficient vehicles. See background materials	5		

Land Use / Transportation

16. 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. See background materials	5		
17. Promote the use of permanent conservation easements on private property within your community and/or implement a permanent conservation easement on public land. See background materials	5		
18. 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). See background materials	5		

Water / Air Quality

19. Develop and implement a plan for tree preservation & planting. See background materials	5		
20. Adopt a Low Impact Development (LID) storm water management policy and/or Environmental Site Design (ESD) guidelines. See background materials	5		
21. Adopt an anti-idling policy for school/government fleet vehicles. See background materials	5		

Employee Incentives

22. Provide employee benefits for ride sharing, walking, biking, or taking transit to work. See background materials	5		
23. Adopt a policy that a minimum of 20% of the eligible workforce should participate in alternative work schedules or telework by 2010 (consistent with the current VA State policy). See background materials	5		

Education / Community Participation

24. Develop an employee education program on policies/practices relating to the environment and energy conservation. See background materials	5		
25. 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. See background materials	5		
26. Develop and implement an education program for the local community dealing with the environment and energy conservation. See background materials	5		

Schools

27. Establish a Safe Routes to School program, which encourages walking and bicycling to neighborhood schools. See background materials	5		
28. Establish clubs dealing with the environment and energy conservation in at least half of your high schools. See background materials	5		
29. 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). See background materials	5		

Innovation

30. Innovation Credits – for any efforts, policies, activities beyond those identified above which are proven to reduce the carbon emissions of the local government.. See background materials	25		
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Grand Total	200	+	
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Grand Total: Pre-2008 Actions + 2008 Actions →